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Official on Extension of Dual Citizenship Terms

MK1711142094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 17 Nov 94 p 3

[Unattributed report: "Dual Citizenship for Russians in the CIS"]

[FBIS Translated Text] "Russia will seek dual citizenship for Russians living in the CIS states," said Abdulakh Mikitayev, a representative of the citizenship commission under the Russian Federation president. According to Mikitayev, the term for the registration of Russians leaving for the Russian Federation from CIS countries, which expires 6 February, is planned to be extended by another two to three years.

Commanders at CIS Borders Agree To Cooperate

LD1711221394 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 2000 GMT 17 Nov 94

[From the "Vesti newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] The council of border troops commanders of CIS member states ended its eleventh sitting late this evening, outside Moscow and away from the noise of the city.

[Correspondent] Taking part in the sitting were representatives of all the Commonwealth states except for Moldova. The sitting resulted in the signing of a number of documents on cooperation between border services of CIS states in the defense of external and internal borders.

The meeting paid special attention to a draft concept for the defense of the Commonwealth's external borders. Andrey Nikolayev, commander of the Russian border troops, said at a meeting with journalists that as a representative of the Russian Federation, he was completely satisfied with the results of the sitting. In his words, a single system for ensuring the security of the CIS states is now being created.

[Nikolayev] We had several paths open to us. Everyone defends every border; everyone defends their own border; or we do this by joint, agreed, coordinated efforts. Our politicians and heads of state have chosen the path of agreed joint efforts. We are on the way to implementing it.

[Correspondent] The next stage, according to Nikolayev, will be a treaty consolidating a system of mutual obligations between CIS states.

[Nikolayev] So that one will be sure that where Georgia's state border with Turkey is concerned, not only Georgia's interests will be protected but also the interests of all Commonwealth states.

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 18 Nov

LD1811073994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0644 GMT 18 Nov 94

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow November 18 TASS—ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI carries an interview with Sergey Yushenkov, chairman of the State Duma committee on defence, who stated that "a majority of committee members with one accord favour the present defence minister's resignation from his post. They believe that Pavel Grachev lacks an appropriate political understanding of the role of the Armed Forces in the changed general political and international position of Russia, and a realistic comprehension of the country's economic resources".

Speaking about reasons that compel the Duma deputies to seek the present defence minister's resignation, Yushenkov referred to the findings of various sociological surveys which "indicate that pavel grachev does not enjoy due prestige among the military."

ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI runs an interview with Mikhail Kolesnikov, chief of the general staff of the Russian army, who pointed out that the defence minister had seriously prepared for his Friday's report to the State Duma.

As far as a possible development of events in the State Duma's concerned, the chief of the general staff is of the opinion that "a scenario to this effect has been worked out in various Duma factions, not in the general staff".

TRUD points out that it will not be easy for Pavel Grachev to speak in the State Duma. "Not only because the minister personally and, on a rebound, the Army as a whole came under massive criticism in view of the tragic death of Dmitriy Kholodov and a new wave of talk about corruption in the western group of troops. It will really be hard for the defence minister to report on the work done".

ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA, in an article headlined "Ministers Assume the Defensive", describes reports to the parliamentarians by the chiefs of key ministries.

The report by Interior Minister Viktor Yerin, "was constructed in the best Soviet-era traditions: a balance of successes and setbacks, and a restrained optimism—the wave of crime in Russia subsides... But even from the classic text of the report, it was becoming clear that the actual state of affairs concerning crime-busting efforts is such that one might as well impose a state of emergency throughout its territory".

"Actually, Yerin said what a minister should report, namely, that 'measures are being taken' and that 'efforts are being intensified'... But the job of the Duma deputies is strictly to make the minister responsible".

TRUD reports the results of its journalistic inquiry into the state of affairs at the Ural electromechanical plant in Yekaterinburg under a subtitle "The Workers Do Not Receive Wages While The Plant Management Buy A Villa—At Bahamas."

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In TRUD, the results of the 1994 operations Zaslon (barrier), Putina (fishery season), and Rubezhi (borders), carried out by the federal border service of the Russian Federation, are summed up by Aleksandr Tymko, chief of the main headquarters of Russian border troops.

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA comments on the Ukrainian parliament's Wednesday decision to join the treaty on non-proliferation of nuclear weapons.

"The decision was taken by an overwhelming majority of votes—301—with only eight against. This in itself, at first glance, looks rather unexpected.

"Many in Ukraine, officials including, did not conceal that they would like to keep some amount of nuclear weapons on their territory, since that might help ensure the republic's international status and prestige."

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International Peace Conference Desired in 1999

LD1711173994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1609 GMT 17 Nov 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Boris Sitnikov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] United Nations November 17 TASS—"Since the United Nations has declared the nineties to be a decade of international law, Russia has again raised the question of convening the third international peace conference in 1999," Russian representative Aleksandr Zmeyevskiy said, addressing the 6th (legal) committee of the United Nations General Assembly in connection with the "U.N. Decade of International Law".

Noting that the purpose of the decade is to "establish the supremacy of international law and to form a community of law-governed nations", Zmeyevskiy pointed out that it would be right to round off the decade by a "major project", which would determine the form of international legal order in the 21st century. "The idea to convene the third international peace conference in 1999, advanced this April by the Russian foreign minister on behalf of President Yeltsin, is fully in keeping with these goals," the Russian representative stressed.

He recalled that the previous peace conferences, convened in 1899 and 1907, although they were unable to prevent the two world wars, were, nevertheless, "a great beginning, which determined the main direction of international life in the 20th century—the urge for peace, for the promotion of the principles of philanthropy and justice".

"The Russian side plans to hold early next year a series of meetings between experts from the states that have evinced the greatest interest in the Russian proposal. This will eventually make possible the creation of a 'club of supporters' of the initiative to convene the third peace conference," the Russian representative noted.

Move Toward New Eastern 'Partition Line' Seen

MM1711165694 Moscow NOVAYA YEZHEDNEVNAYA GAZETA in Russian 16 Nov 94 p 1

[Article by Yuriy Stroyev under the "Main World Event" rubric: "Will NATO Border Approach Pskov?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] It is not so long ago since barbed wire and watchtowers graced what is now the site of training exercises by German and Czech soldiers. It was reported that they were supposed to rehearse joint operations. To what end? Against whom? Not a word was said about this. Meanwhile in Bonn, German Defense Minister Ruehe and U.S. Chief of General Staff Shalikashvili declared that Germany and the United States are in favor of continuing the discussions on expanding NATO in the direction of the East.

A session of the Hungarian-U.S. working group on defense questions took place in the Hungarian capital, at which the prospects for welcoming Hungary into NATO were discussed. According to certain information, Hungary is trading its entry to this bloc for economic "aid" promised by the United States and certain others of its allies.

The little Baltic countries too, having failed to keep a single one of their promises to Moscow for the concession of independence, are urgently tailoring their military subunits to the demands of NATO, and they are prepared to stand under its flags at the first call.

And now, in Washington, a session of the NATO North Atlantic Assembly has opened. Attention at the meeting is centered on questions linked with the "Partnership for Peace" program, which primarily covers the problem of expanding NATO by means of East European countries. In Brussels on 16 November there is a conference of NATO ambassadors within the context of preparation for a meeting of the foreign and defense ministers of North Atlantic Alliance member-countries. This conference too will discuss the acceptance into this bloc of those same new members. In particular, it is planned also to submit these questions to the NATO Council session which opens 1 January in Brussels.

A strategic vacuum has formed in Eastern Europe, and there is no security system which might reduce the risk linked with the transition period. That is the view of a leading American specialist on security questions—Retired General William Odon [surname as transliterated]. So, according to his view, "by bringing East European countries under NATO's roof, better conditions will be created for ensuring that they do not backslide." At the same time, he believes that Russia does not need NATO.

The general is being devious. It is, after all, NATO which does not need Russia. This is proven by Washington's increasingly open opposition to Moscow's policy on settling the conflict in Bosnia and deciding the Iraq crisis, as well as the ever deeper U.S. penetration into Southeast Asia and the encouragement of Japan to ever greater militarization. The strategic balance has already been violated, and it is clearly to the advantage of the United States and NATO, which can now throw their weight around not only in Europe but in all other parts of the world wholeheartedly and with impunity.

NATO Secretary General Claes also stated this unequivocally. He noted simply and tactfully that Russia does not have the right to discuss the question of the expansion of NATO since that organization is autonomous and is not prepared to take orders from Moscow on how it should be developed.

Participation in the European security system meets the fundamental interests of the United States. Which is why America needs NATO, so as to guarantee its own, and

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not Europe's—still less Russia's—interests. One structure of the erstwhile bipolar confrontation—the Warsaw Pact—has been virtually completely destroyed, while the other, NATO, has been preserved and is getting stronger in every way. So what is the point of the "Partnership for Peace" initiative which has been hailed so loudly? Is it not gradually to draw into NATO the countries of Eastern Europe, to penetrate further toward the East, and to create a new partition line? Where will it run? Through the "buffer states" which are no more, or even further—close to Pskov or Smolensk?

NATO's 'Thoughtless' Expansion Opposed

LD1711181394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1615 GMT 17 Nov 94

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature: by diplomatic correspondents Aleksandr Korzun, Igor Porshnev, Yevgeniy Terekhov, and others]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A Russian deputy minister said the NATO's expansion by the incorporation of Central and Eastern European states into the North Atlantic alliance was a way into "new impasses."

"Thoughtless and hasty" inclusion of Central and Eastern European countries into NATO would cause an extremely negative reaction in Russia and would "no doubt" affect its relations with the organization, Deputy Foreign Minister Nikolay Afanasyevskiy told Interfax on Thursday [17 November].

"We are not developing our cooperation with NATO to have new dividing lines on the map of Europe," he said.

Today's "wave of discussions on NATO's composition is certainly not the first one," Afanasyevsky continued. "This time the expansion of the alliance has been proposed by leading, but by no means all, members of the alliance. It seems that their motives are considerations of domestic politics rather than the objective needs of the continent and its security."

The deputy minister expressed the hope that "our partners both in NATO and in Central and Eastern Europe will think of all possible positive and negative effects of the expansion of the North Atlantic alliance." "The dispute is far from being over," he said.

Afanasyevskiy said Russian experts were in "the final stage" of work on a program of partnership between Russian and NATO, to be presented by Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev to the North Atlantic Cooperation Council in Brussels on December 2-3.

There will be a clause in the program that Russia's "partnership with NATO will be determined by the special status, size and potential of Russia and by the fact that it is a major European, world and nuclear power," Afanasyevskiy said.

"It is a concrete program which would make provision for political, military and other consultations, something both sides are interested in," he concluded.

Soskovets Reschedules Visit To Japan

OW1811013294 Tokyo KYODO in English 0104 GMT 18 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, Nov. 18 KYODO—Russian first Deputy Premier Oleg Soskovets, who is to head a visiting delegation, will arrive in Japan on Nov. 26 for a six-day visit instead of Nov. 25 as originally planned, a government source said Thursday [17 November].

The government made the one-day postponement because Soskovets will attend an economic conference in Moscow on Nov. 25, the source said.

While in Japan, Soskovets will sign agreements on bilateral economic cooperation, sources who are well-versed in Russo-Japanese affairs said Wednesday.

The deputy premier will hold talks with Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama and Finance Minister Masayoshi Takemura as well as signing the economic accord with Foreign Minister Yohei Kono, the sources said.

The delegation will include top-level officials from Russia's maritime states and regions, and from oil and gas corporations, together with representatives from the Russian automobile manufacturing industry, the sources said.

Delegation members will also meet economic leaders in Tokyo and the Kansai region, including Osaka and Kyoto, they said. The mission will return home Dec. 1.

'Emotional Flare-Ups' in Japan Relations Fade

LD1711194794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1615 GMT 17 Nov 94

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature: by diplomtic correspondents Aleksandr Korzun, Igor Porshnev, Yevgeniy Terekhov, and others]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] It is "absolutely normal" for the "emotional flare- ups" that accompanied discussions of the Northern problem and spoilt Russian-Japanese relations to fade into oblivion, a high-ranking officer on the staff of the Russian Foreign Ministry told Interfax Thursday [17 November].

"The situation changed drastically after President Yeltsin's visit to Japan and the signing of the Tokyo declaration brought the territorial dispute, which is a stumbling block on the road for a peace treaty, into the mainstream of civilized and sensation-free relations," the Foreign Ministry spokesman said.

The diplomat held both Moscow and Tokyo responsible for the off-key and unworthy emotional flare-ups. Yeltsin's visit to Tokyo returned bilateral relations to

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normal and enabled Moscow and Tokyo to work quietly and steadfastly, as civilized neighbors should, on a peace treaty, he said.

The diplomat failed to say how long it would take to draw up a peace treaty. Any two countries, let alone Russia and Japan, would see work on a peace treaty as the most difficult, he said. It is clear that it would take Russia and Japan years to produce a peace treaty.

According to the Russian Foreign Ministry officer, the joint working group will hold its next meeting early next month in Tokyo. Russia's Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksandr Panov is to attend.

DPRK General Visits Air Unit, Academy, Museum

MM1811103194 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 18 Nov 94 p 1

[Report by Viktor Beltsov: "North Korea Interested in Russian Combat Aircraft"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Army General Cho Myong-nok, commander of the Korean People's Army Air Force, who is on a working visit to Russia, has visited the Yu.A. Gagarin Air Force Academy and the Monino Air Force Museum.

During the visit the performance of the Su-27 and MiG-29 fighters and the Su-25 ground-attack aircraft will be demonstrated to the Korean guest.

Former Ambassador Fears U.S. 'Populist Steps'

LD1811102294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0617 GMT 18 Nov 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondents Dmitriy Gorokhov and Yuriy Kozlov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow November 18 TASS—The defeat of the Democratic Party at the mid-term elections to the US Congress can make the US Administration undertake "populist steps" in foreign policy, according to Vladimir Lukin, chairman of the State Duma committee on international affairs and former Russian ambassador to the United States.

"The first post-election steps of the White House on the international arena do not inspire", he told TASS on Friday [18 November] and explained that he refers to the unilateral US decision to drop control over the embargo on weapons shipments to Bosnian Muslims. "This is clearly a populist measure which meets the pressure from the Congress and the pressure from rather broad public circles who think in black-and-white categories", Lukin said.

The second example of the populist steps is the tour of Asian and Pacific rim countries by U.S. President Bill Clinton. "The visit was naturally planned before, but now it is dominated by the wish to show that the White House exerts pressure on Japan, on new industrialised countries, the so-called Asian "tigers" in order to improve foreign trade balance of the United States", Lukin said.

He fears that the "populist steps" can develop into "such dangerous affairs as the NATO expansion, extremely active US participation in solving conflicts in the former USSR which affect the Russian vital interests".

"All this causes concern. I would be glad if the concern is groundless", Lukin stressed.

The former ambassador to the USA expressed hope that the programmes of US assistance to Russian reforms would continue, but added that sometimes they boil down to the popular American slogan "to help a democracy without spending a cent".

Potential Seen for Increased Mexican Trade

MM1811093994 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 15 Nov 94

[Report by Yevgeniy Umerenkov: "Snow Cannot be Sold in Mexico. But Other Goods Can Be Sold Quite Easily"; from p 3 of DELOVOY VTORNIK section]

[FBIS Translated Text] Mexico City—Mexican television serials have brought this distant foreign country far closer to the peasants. However, this acquaintance is not of a mercantile nature by any means at the moment. The tequila and hot sauces that have appeared in our stores scarcely give us a picture of Mexico's trade possibilities. Our correspondent spoke to Nikolay Zaytsev, leader of the Russian Federation trade office in Mexico, about what these actually are and how bilateral trade and economic ties could develop.

[Umerenkov] Maybe those who say it's not worth getting something cheaply if the additional transportation costs make it expensive are right?

[Zaytsev] It is true that transportation really is becoming increasingly expensive. But that is a separate subject for discussion. Mexico now has one of the most open import regimes. There are no customs rates over 20 percent, and a significant proportion of goods enter the country duty free. Although the local market is very complex—leading world firms operate in Mexico, and many of them have their production facilities here—it could be very promising for us.

For example, last year we doubled exports, boosting them to approximately $30 million. Of course this is not much for a country like Mexico, whose volume of imports is around $60 billion annually. But in the structure of our exports here, 96 percent is made up of machinery and equipment. No other country has this indicator, as far as I am aware.

Possibilities have now emerged to sell our airplanes and trucks. Russian electric engines, which are capable of working in corrosive environments, could prove their

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worth on the local market. Interesting contracts are being prepared to supply our motorcycles to Mexico, and one of the possibilities is assembling and finishing the motorcycles here in order to re-export them to other Latin American and Caribbean countries.

People in our country simply do not know Mexico. They do not realize that in recent years it was essentially involved in the same structural restructuring as we are trying to conduct here.

In Mexico it has proceeded more successfully. Mexico has knocked inflation down from 160 percent to 7.8—that was last year's level. Mexico is a champion in terms of attracting foreign investments.

Mexican goods.... We are no longer interested in buying cheap but poor-quality things. But Mexican manufacturers could actually offer goods of fairly good quality which are affordable for people with an average income.

Moscow To Resume Oil Supplies to Cuba in Dec

LD1711175794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1640 GMT 17 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Russia will resume supplies of crude oil to Cuba in exchange for sugar starting from December 1994, the Russian Foreign Economic Relations Ministry told Interfax Thursday.

The agreement was reached at a meeting between Russian Deputy Prime Minister, Foreign Economic Relations Minister Oleg Davydov and Cuban Ambassador to Russia Rogelio Montenegro Wednesday night [16 November].

Moscow decided to resume the supplies following Cuba's fulfilling its obligations on the first stage of the deal and its guaranteeing an unconditional accomplishment of the final stage.

According to a Russian-Cuban intergovernmental protocol signed last December, Russia is to supply 2.5 million tonnes of crude oil to Cuba in exchange for 1 million tonnes of sugar beet.

By mid-September 1994, Russia delivered 1.5 million tonnes of oil to Cuba fulfilling its obligations on the deal's first stage. At the same time, Cuba delivered to Russia only 490,000 tonnes of sugar beet, while an equivalent amount would be 574,500 tonnes.

The deal was on the brink of disruption when Russia wanted to suspend implementing its second stage. However, thanks to additional urgent supplies of Cuban sugar, the barter deal will be resumed in December-January according to the intergovernmental protocol.

The Russian sugar industry sharply needs Cuban sugar beet as it is finishes processing the stocks of domestically-produced sugar beet, the harvest of which this year was 40% lower than last year.

Energy Ministry To Seek Funding for Cuban Oil Pipeline

LD1711154694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1431 GMT 17 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Mintopenergo, Russia's Fuel and Energy Ministry, intends to ask the Finance Ministry to make a $6.2 million credit available to the Russian association Zarubezhnefegazstroi to lay a Varadero-Matanzas oil pipeline in Cuba.

The Petroleum Information Agency learned from a Mintopenergo source, the Finance Ministry stopped funding the project last May, despite the fact that it is part of the Russian-Cuban agreement on economic and technical cooperation in 1993-1996.

Acting as the general supplier, Zarubezhnefegazstroi needs $20 million to buy materials and equipment for Mashinoimport, the association that struck the deal with Esimetal, the Cuban company in charge of the construction work.

This pipeline will be an extension from the Matanzas-Cienfuegos oil pipeline, built by Mashinoimport (also with Zarubezhneftegazstroi participation) in 1993, to transport oil to the port of Matanzas. It will be 58.5 kilometers long, its pipes will be 530 mm in diameter, and the transportation capacity of this extension will be 2.2 million tonnes a year. The main Matanzas-Cienfuegos oil pipeline is 187 kilometers long and has a capacity of 3 million tonnes a year.

Iran's Ambassador on Relations, Caspian Sea

LD1711201894 Tehran IRNA in English 1945 GMT 17 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, Nov. 17, IRNA—Iran's new ambasador to Russia, Medhi Safari here today emphasized the significance of the historical, good neighbourly relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Russia. In an interview with IRNA, he said, "we attach importance to mutual cooperation with Russia on regional and international issues."

Safari said that the Islamic Republic of Iran was ready to cooperate with Russia to help restore peace and lasting stability in Tajikistan and Karabakh.

He referred to the Caspian Sea as a good ground for bilateral cooperation between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Russia and said that Iran was interested in formulating legal system of the Caspian Sea in the framework of the organization of the Caspin Sea littoral states. Safari said that participation of Iran in oil exploration in Azerbaijan Republic is taking place in the framework of the organization of the Caspian Sea littoral states and the respective new legal system. He pointed to the forthcoming session of the representatives of the Caspian Sea littoral states due to be held in Tehran next

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February and said that Iran was doing its best to hold the interparliamentary meeting of the littoral states in near future.

He said that Russia is a large market and Iranian entrepreneurs are capable of exporting dlrs. 3-4 billion worth of goods to Russia. Iran has decided to set up a trade center for Iranian businessmen in Moscow including permanent trade fair and cultural center.

He pointed to other areas of cooperation between Iran and Russia including construction of power plans, railways and roads.

Moscow Hopes Oil Embargo on Iraq is Lifted

LD1711192094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1615 GMT 17 Nov 94

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature: by diplomatic correspondents Aleksandr Korzun, Igor Porshnev, Yevgeniy Terekhov, and others]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow sees Iraq's official recognition of the sovereignty and borders of Kuwait as one of the key aspects of a postcrisis settlement in the Middle East Gulf, Karasin told the same news briefing [held 17 November].

He said the U.N. Security Council had expressed unanimous approval of Iraq's decision by passing a statement to that effect by Council president.

"By taking that step, Baghdad has come much of the way towards meeting the demands of the world community," Karasin said.

He added that "practically all (Security Council) members, including the United States, did justice to the role of Russian diplomacy in making Iraq recognize the sovereignty and borders of Kuwait."

It is essential that the Security Council should continue "to adequately react to subsequent steps by Iraq to carry out Security Council resolutions, steps that speed up the gradual lifting of sanctions," Karasin said.

He said Moscow was building its hopes on a passage in the Security Council president's statement making assurances that the Council would carry out its own resolutions, including Clause 22 of Resolution No. 678, under which the oil embargo on Iraq must be lifted if the country satisfies all of the Council's disarmament demands.

Posuvalyuk To Deal With Middle East Issues

LD1711172594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1606 GMT 17 Nov 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Yuriy Tyssovskiy]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow November 17 TASS—"The range of problems which I will have to tackle in my new capacity has still not been fully determined," ITAR-TASS Was told today by Viktor Posuvalyuk, appointed deputy foreign minister two days ago by an injunction of the Russian Government.

"Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev and his First Deputy Igor Ivanov are not in Moscow today. A revision of our duties will be carried out after their return and the range of my new duties will be defined. I can definitely say that, as before, I will be charged with problems of the Middle East settlement and with issues of the region as a whole, although, of course, some other problems will also be assigned to me."

The 54-year-old Viktor Posuvalyuk is a career diplomat. He is a high-class Arabist, who held a whole line of important posts in Soviet embassies in the Arab world. During the two most critical years—1990 and 1991—he was Soviet ambassador to Iraq. He was later appointed director of the Middle East and North Africa Department of the Russian Foreign Ministry.

Although the new deputy minister avoided disclosing his additional duties, which are bound to be assigned to him in his new capacity, the fact that he had returned on Wednesday from Dushanbe may shed light on his possible new assignments. Posuvalyuk was a member of the Russian delegation, led by Vice-Premier Sergey Shakhray, which took part in the inauguration of Tajik President Emomali Rakhmanov. It is believed in trustworthy circles within the Russian Foreign Ministry that the new deputy minister may be put in charge of Moscow's relations with the former Central Asian republics of the USSR, which are now independent states. Deputy Minister Boris Kolokolov was formerly in charge of Middle East problems within the Russian Foreign Ministry, while Anatoliy Adamishin was responsible for problems linked with the intra-Tajik settlement. The latter is now ambassador to London. After Adamishin, these problems were tackled by Deputy Minister Albert Chernyshev.

Kozyrev, Juppe on Talks on Bosnia, Iraq

LD1711133694 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1212 GMT 17 Nov 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Nikita Yermakov, Mikhail Kalmykov, and Andrey Shtorkh]

[FBIS Translated Text] Paris, 17 Nov—In the course of talks which started today Alain Juppe and Andrey Kozyrev, foreign ministers of France and Russia, discussed two major issues—developments in Bosnia and Iraq.

The conversation lasted 40 minutes longer than planned but, according to the ministers, they did not have time for other topics. They decided therefore to hold another working meeting this evening.

France and Russia expressed great proximity of views in analyzing the development of events in Bosnia which

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give rise for concern, Alain Juppe said in a brief statement for journalists who were waiting for the ministers at the main entrance of the French Foreign Ministry on Quai d'Orsay. It should be established, the head of French diplomacy remarked, whether everyone is still willing to strive to attain the former goal of a peaceful settlement in Bosnia on the basis of the peace plan agreed in Geneva. We have come to the conclusion that it is necessary to hold a meeting of the "Contact Group" at a ministerial level in the near future, in early December, he said.

As regards the Iraq problem, he went on, both Russia and France state that Baghdad's recognition of Kuwait in the form corresponding to the requirements of the UN Security Council's resolution is a important new element which the world community should take into account. If the Iraqi side continues to cooperate with the Security Council's special commission dealing with monitoring Iraqi armaments and if progress is achieved, the issue will be posed on what conditions the international sanctions against Baghdad could finally be lifted in a few months's time, he stated.

For his part, Andrey Kozyrev added that the standpoints of France and Russia on these matters coincide in principle. An understanding was reached during the talks on certain specific tasks for the representatives of the two countries in the "Contact Group" on a settlement in Bosnia and in the UN Security Council when discussing the problem of Iraq.

Speaking briefly about European security, the Russian minister noted that his conversations in Paris demonstrated France's understanding that it is not possible to build Europe without having a very close partnership with Russia and that there can be no new divisions. The present structures on the continent were set up in a different Europe and for different purposes; they cannot be a panacea for the problems of the continent today. A new formula for European security has to be sought creatively. Among others, President Francois Mitterrand of France has spoken clearly and strongly about this.

France attaches key importance to the establishment and development of partnership between Russia and the European Union [EU], Alain Juppe concluded. In his opinion there should be no new division into blocs. This is the spirit in which France plans to chair the ruling bodies of the EU from 1 January 1995 and to work to make the agreement on partnership between Russia and the EU meaningful. Work should also be done to increase the influence of the CSCE while retaining the role and importance of NATO, with the condition that the North Atlantic alliance operate in a spirit of openness as demonstrated by the "Partnership for Peace" program.

The ministers expressed satisfaction with their productive friendly conversation and regretted that they had disappointed the journalists who had assembled by not managing to answer their questions.

Kozyrev, France's Balladur Discuss Ties, Europe

LD1711205394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1910 GMT 17 Nov 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Nikita Yermakov, Mikhail Kalmykov and Andrey Storch]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Paris November 17 TASS—Russian-French relations and the two countries' cooperation in Europe and in the world were discussed today by French Prime Minister Edouard Balladur and Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev, now on an official visit here.

"This was a much-encompassing meeting, the prime minister is concise and concrete in the conversation," Kozyrev told ITAR-TASS, leaving the prime minister's residence. "We agreed to convene the Russian-French economic, scientific and technological council in the nearest future in order to move the economic dimension of our relations with France closer to the present level of political relations which were given an additional impetus during this visit," Kozyrev said.

The Russian foreign minister said another subject was closer cooperation of Russia and France as stabilising factors in international and European controversies. "We have stated that we have actually identical approaches to the the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Iraq. The prime minister highly appraised the role of Russia. I in turn remarked that all that was achieved on Iraq was the result the collaborative policy of Russia and France," Kozyrev continued.

As of European developments, the interlocutors stressed the need for a stronger Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe. Balladur recalled that Russia was at the beginnings of the CSCE process. The pan-European process remains a priority for both countries, it was agreed. The interlocuters agreed to collaborate in preparing the early December CSCE summit in Budapest.

"Edouard Balladur reaffirmed French support for Russia's rapid admission to the CSCE," Kozyrev said. "January next year starts France's chairmanship of the European Union, and the prime minister assured me that this period will be favourable for Russia," the Russian foreign minister said. He added that the Korfu agreement Russia and the EU had signed in June, now in the ratification process, is expectable to come into effect.

"We have reaffirmed our unwavering commitment to the European stability pact, the Balladur initiative," Kozyrev continued. "The prime minister has outlined further work along this line. In particular, foreign ministers will hold a meeting in Budapest on December 6 on this subject. We will certainly have an active part in it. This is another direction promising additional room for the Russian-French cooperation," Kozyrev said.

The Russian minister said he "made an almost full account on our meeting in a laconic form" which his conversation with the French prime minister had.

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Agreement With France on Construction of Nuclear Store

LD1711145394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1425 GMT 17 Nov 94

[By unidentified ITAR-TASS special correspondent]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Paris November 17 TASS—The Russian and French foreign ministers—Andrey Kozyrev and Alain Juppe—are to sign today an agreement on the construction in Russia of a storage for hydrogen-containing materials. This document, which ITAR-TASS has obtained from French diplomatic circles, envisages the "turn-key" construction near Novosibirsk of a building for storing hydrogen-containing lithium materials, remaining after the destruction of nuclear weapons in Russia.

The construction of this storage will mark a new phase in the implementation of the broad agreement between the Governments of France and Russia to jointly ensure the safe scrapping of nuclear weapons in Russia and to use the obtained weapons-grade materials for peaceful purposes. It was signed in November 1992 and contains several programmes, including the delivery of equipment for assessing the radiological situation and protecting people from radiation, the delivery of supercontainers for the safe transportation of nuclear ammunition and its components, slated for destruction, and also machine-tools for dismantling them. Moreover, it is envisaged to carry out studies linked with the peaceful use of plutonium fuel, obtained from scrapped nuclear weapons.

The financing of the general agreement will be done by the French side within the limits of 400 million francs. The cost of the hydrogen-containing materials storage near Novosibirsk is estimated, according to figures furnished to ITAR-TASS by French diplomatic sources, at 132 million francs.

These materials, ITAR-TASS was told by experts, pose no danger at all. They are not radioactive or underactive: Their maximum tritium contamination does not exceed 0.02 curies per kilogram. Every possible safety measure will be ensured in keeping with the norms in force.

The project includes the construction of a 5,000 square metres building, able to store more than 3,200 cotnainers with hydrogen-containing lithium materials. Moreover, a set of equipment will be delivered to Russia for serving the storage for a period of ten years. In expert opinion, the feasible timelimit for commissioning the buildings is the middle of 1997.

Polish Views of Station Incident Cited

M[illegible]1811103694 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 16 Nov 94 p 3

[Article by Leonid Kornilov: "Poles Dream of Seeing the Eastern Border Locked Up"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Warsaw—Following the publication of articles on the incident at a Warsaw station, some Polish journalists are accusing Russian correspondents working in Warsaw of disinformation and deliberate concealment from the readers of "the true reasons for the police intervention" and, as the ZYCIE WARSZAWY newspaper describes it, of fanning anti-Polish hysteria in Moscow.

The SOLIDARNOSC weekly inquires: Why did the Russian journalists report the incident with such a delay? Why did all the articles appear, as if on cue, on the same day, and what kind of a "well-orchestrated propaganda campaign with an anti-Polish accent" is this? The answers are perfectly well known to the side asking the questions. The victims were held in the police station for 48 hours, and this was simply not known to either Russian or Polish journalists. Once they found out, the articles appeared, and there has been nobody in either of our countries to orchestrate such things for a long time now. But the weekly was carried away by its attack:

"These journalists' commentaries demonstrate vividly that their sojourn in Poland since the time it became independent has not been good for them. Relations with free Poles constitute for them a source of constant stress."

Is this a hint that they could be thrown out?

In connection with the incident at the Warsaw station the epithet "blachy," meaning negligible, trivial, or insignificant, has become current. The Russian passengers have been subjected to a verbal beating, the third, as it were, after those by the robbers and the policemen: It is all your own fault. As the victims have already left Poland, the truth is not in their testimonies but in the policemen's latest reports.

"But the Russian victims, many of whom, incidentally, are ethnic Germans," says G. Yakimishin, press attache at the Russian embassy, "are not far from here, in Germany. They could be invited to Warsaw, and their story could be compared with the findings of the investigation when it is finished. And we can do this."

I have also read an appeal to the Polish minister of justice by a large group of passengers who are graduates of the Academy of the National Economy. They include women who, together with the men, demand compensation for moral damage, including "for the infliction of physical suffering, verbal and physical assault, violation of Russian citizens' rights, and the threat to our lives created by the Polish police." The statement is accompanied by records of physical injuries from the Franciscan hospital in Bielefeld, as well as from the surgeon Kanti Lal.

Journalist Jan Nowak-Jezioranski raises the alarm in GAZETA WYBORCZA: "What happened at Warsaw East station should open Poles' eyes to the fact that the

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threat from the East is more real than some people believe. The incident carries every mark of a carefully planned provocation."

And now the only things you hear are: "The political events began with a provocation at the station," and "The Russian politicians' position is a gross provocation."

The Polish press responded extremely nervously to Boris Yeltsin's edict on the use of the necessary forces and means to secure the evacuation of compatriots from countries where an extreme situation has arisen which threatens their life and health. Aha, the Polish colleagues said, jumping to conclusions, so instead of the Brezhnev doctrine, the Yeltsin doctrine has made its appearance. An imperial Russian threat looms over Poland. In television debates, one journalist reproached the Polish authorities because, at such a crucial time, in the east of Poland there are supposedly concentrations not of military units but of weapon stores which will be seized at once by the Russian Army when it invades Poland.

Of course, one can also hear objections. Andrzej Drawicz, the well-known public figure and professor of Russian studies, writes in the SZTANDAR MLODYCH newspaper about "an anti-Russian climate that is being fostered very intensively" as a major reason for Russia's sharp reaction to the station incident: "We are always comparing Russia with some abstract model, without really noticing how far it has departed in its toils and misfortunes in the last few years from the models of a totalitarian state."

The professor is echoed by Stanislaw Ciosek, Poland's ambassador to Russia. Asked by a correspondent about the "campaign in the Russian press," he replied: "I think this is simply a form of a response to the Polish press's fairly aggressive tone in writing about Russia. It is as if Polish journalists have not noticed that Russia has changed. I think the Russian side has probably run out of patience."

"Sorry"—that was the title that Jerzy Urban, chief editor of the NIE weekly, gave to his remarks, as if he was uttering that word on behalf of the Poles, but not the government.

Even though raids by the "Russian" mafia against fellow citizens have continued, in the last few days the police have become more active. In Biala Podlaska, for example, they have started to protect the trains on which citizens of the former USSR travel, and also the E-3 Terespol-Warsaw international freeway. Polish Internal Affairs Minister Andrzej Milczanowski is going to Moscow—clearly the situation can be rectified only through cooperation.

Apart from a torrent of state reproofs, the "trivial" incident has also prompted serious attempts at comprehending the state of Polish-Russian relations, in particular in the psychological aspect. After all, much has changed for the better: Millions of ordinary people, having become partners instead of "brothers," are getting to know one another better and better. But it has suddenly transpired that hardly anyone here is prepared to admit that even Russians could be right about some things. In a poll, 62 percent Poles were convinced that the Polish police's actions at the station were appropriate to the situation, and only 13 percent said they were too tough. Forty-two percent believe the eastern border should be locked shut through the introduction of a visa procedure.

Wieslaw Debski, observer of the TRYBUNA newspaper, has recalled Herzen's words that no other people neighboring on Russia know it less well than Poland does. Herzen lived a long time ago. All the same, it is a pity if he is still right today.

Warsaw Station Incident 'Settled'

LD1711184694 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1707 GMT 17 Nov 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Gennadiy Yezhov]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 17 Nov—The incident regarding the beating up of Russian citizens at the Warsaw railway station was deemed settled at the meeting between Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin and Poland's Interior Minister Andrzej Milczanowski. It took place today in Government House in Moscow.

Andrzej Milczanowski repeated the Polish side's apologies. He agreed that the actions of the Polish policemen who had not protected the Russian train passengers from a bandit attack could be seen as negligent. Those guilty of not fulfilling their duties will be punished, the Polish minister said. He offered the same apologies at a meeting the previous day with his Russian counterpart, Viktor Yerin.

In this connection, the sides noted that Viktor Chernomyrdin's visit to Poland which had been postponed because of the events at the Warsaw railway station, may take place as early as December this year. The Polish side proposed a new date for the official visit—10 December, however the specific dates will be announced after they have been agreed by the foreign policy departments of the two countries.

Andrzej Milczanowski told journalists at the end of the meeting that the Polish policemen who were on the platform of the Warsaw-East station on 23 October had not responded to the complaints of the Russian train passengers that they had been robbed and beaten up by bandits. This had endangered the Russians' lives. Poland's Interior Minister, Andrzej Milczanowski, said that an accord had been reached with Viktor Yerin about stepping up efforts in the fight against international gangs of racketeers.

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Soskovets, Ukraine's Marchuk Discuss Black Sea Fleet

LD1711193794 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1800 GMT 17 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Disputed questions about dividing up the Black Sea Fleet were discussed today during the working meeting in Moscow between Russian First Deputy Prime Minister Oleg Soskovets, and his Ukrainian counterpart Yevheniy Marchuk. The meeting took place behind closed doors.

As an ITAR-TASS correspondent was informed by Oleg Soskovets's staff, there was also discussion of the prospects for bilateral cooperation. No details of the meeting have been released.

Let us recall that last week Russian President Boris Yeltsin instructed Soskovets to carry out work on the question of the Black Sea Fleet before the Russian-Ukrainian summit talks planned for the end of November in Kiev.

Nuclear Fuel Supplies to Ukraine Ready To Continue

LD1711173894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1640 GMT 17 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] This year the Russian Nuclear Energy Ministry has fully carried out its commitments to Ukraine concerning fuel supplies to nuclear power stations and is ready to continue deliveries, a ministry spokesman Vitaliy Nasonov told Interfax Thursday [17 November].

He said in March, April, June and October 1994 Russia dispatched 249 fuel elements for nuclear stations which is even more than planned for this year. On Wednesday during a meeting with their Ukrainian counterparts ministry leaders were assured that Ukraine had no complaints about fuel deliveries from Russia.

Nasonov stressed that under the March 27, 1992 decree of President Boris Yeltsin the delivery of nuclear materials, technologies and equipment to countries having no nuclear weapons are allowed only if all nuclear programs in those countries are controlled by the International Atomic Energy Agency. At the beginning of November the Russian side notified Kiev that in keeping with generally accepted international practice and the bilateral agreement it will stop the delivery of fuel elements for nuclear stations, if Ukraine does not place all its nuclear programs under IAEA control by June 14, 1995. Still Russia was ready to withdraw its notification as soon as Ukraine carried out its pledges concerning nuclear disarmament.

Nasonov made it understood that after the Ukrainian parliament passed a law on membership in the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Wednesday the problem related to fuel deliveries ceased to exist.

The bilateral agreement of January 14, 1993 under which the fuel is delivered was signed for two years with automatic extension for five more years, if Kiev stands by the demands of the international community in the sphere of nuclear disarmament.

Official Says World Intensively Discussing Yugoslav Crisis

LD1711214994 Belgrade TANJUG in English 2040 GMT 17 Nov 94

["Pool" item]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, Nov. 17 (TANJUG)—Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman Grigoriy Karasin said Thursday that intensive talks were under way to find a peaceful settlement for the conflict in the former Yugoslavia.

Karasin told a press briefing in Moscow that the matter was being discussed at the U.N. Security Council, and the five-country "Contact Group" for Bosnia was sitting at the level of experts in London and was likely to meet at ministerial level in Brussels on Dec. 2.

All these gatherings are intended to bring peace to the former Yugoslavia, said Karasin.

He said he did not have information about the results of talks held by Croatian and Serb Krajina representatives Tuesday [15 November], and that Moscow would give its views on them as soon as it had received the necessary information.

Moscow is following with great attention the visit to Paris of Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev. According to information available here, talks to date have brought to light similar or identical views on how to deal with the crisis in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Parliament official Vladimir Lukin said the U.S. decision not to enforce on the Bosnian Muslims the arms ban against the former Yugoslavia was a direct result of the Republicans' victory in the Senate and House of Representatives elections.

Lukin, who heads parliament Foreign Relations Committee, said the United States might take further "populist measures", which might be contrary to Russian interests.

He said in this context that NATO might, under pressure from Washington, enlarge its membership with countries from Eastern and Central Europe.

More on Foreign Ministry Statement on Baltics' Resolution

MM1711125094 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 17 Nov 94 p 3

[Report by Anatoliy Mikhaylov: "When a Sense of Reality Is Lost. A 'Problem for All of Europe' Is Being Invented in the Baltic"]

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[FBIS Translated Text] As KRASNAYA ZVEZDA has already reported, the Baltic Assembly—the Baltic states' parliamentary organ—adopted a resolution "On the Demilitarization of Kaliningrad Oblast and Its Further Development" at its 13 November session in Vilnius. In this connection the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs has issued a statement. It reads, in part: "...Familiarization with the resolution leaves us in no doubt that its compilers were certainly not guided by concern for developing and strengthening good-neighborly relations in the Baltic region but were pursuing quite different ends. This document can only be regarded as open interference in the Russian Federation's internal affairs."

Having lost their sense of moderation and reality, the statement goes on, Baltic parliamentarians aspire to make the future of Kaliningrad Oblast the "problem of all of Europe," which will take "joint actions" to resolve. In this connection it is necessary to remind those who advanced this irresponsible idea that Kaliningrad Oblast was, is, and will be an inalienable constituent part of the Russian Federation.

Despite all the toughness of the statement, the Russian Federation Foreign Ministry does not reject businesslike cooperation between the Baltic states and Kaliningrad Oblast. As previously, it is stated here, we are prepared to discuss and resolve these questions on a bilateral and multilateral basis, including with the participation of international organizations.

It is not this, however, that is of concern to Baltic parliamentarians. "The resolution," the Russian Foreign Ministry statement emphasizes, "also repeats the hackneyed demand for the 'demilitarization' of Kaliningrad Oblast. It is time to realize that this is a frivolous formulation of the question. The number of Russian troops is determined by Russia's defense requirements and international obligations. We do not violate these obligations. Moreover, a gradual reduction of the grouping of troops in the oblast is taking place. But this is our internal issue, which we are resolving with due regard for the development of the situation in the region and in Europe as a whole and, not least, for the policy of neighboring states."

The Baltic Assembly resolution, so the Russian Federation Foreign Ministry believes, is a graphic example of irresponsible political intrigue and of a desire to attract world public attention at any price, thereby compensating for a certain lack of attention to the Baltic countries manifested since the completion of the Russian troop withdrawl from there.

Yeltsin Says Nagorno-Karabakh Peace Accord Needed

LD1711223194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1935 GMT 17 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] At his meeting with his Azerbaijani counterpart Geydar Aliyev in Moscow Thursday [17 November], Russian President Boris Yeltsin pointed to the need to immediately sign a political agreement on Nagorno-Karabakh settlement putting an end to armed clashes and allowing to consistently solve specific issues created by the conflict, the presidential press office reported.

Russia is doing its best to promote peace settlement, Yeltsin said. For his part, Aliyev highly praised Russia's role in what had already been achieved.

Yeltsin and Aliyev supported comprehensive development of bilateral relations and strengthening traditional ties between the Russian and Azerbaijani peoples.

Gas Supplies to Belarus Cut Because of Debt

LD1711155494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1431 GMT 17 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Russia has cut gas supply to Belarus by 50 percent starting November 16, Rostislav Pekarski, a senior gas controller at Beltransgaz (gas transportation department), reported to the Petroleum Information Agency.

According to him, Belarus used to receive up to 54 million cubic meters of gas per day whereas now it only receives less than 27 million cubic meters of gas daily. The slash was due to the republic's failure to repay $428 [as received] in debts to Gazprom.

As Vladimir Kurenkov, Belarus' gas industry minister, told the Petroleum Information Agency, the reduced gas shipment proved truly disastrous for industry.

Meanwhile, Gazprom has confirmed the curtailment of gas supplies to Minsk due to outstanding debts.

A Belarusian delegation, led by Deputy Premier Valeriy Kokarev, is scheduled to meet with Gazprom's head Rem Vyakhirev Thursday to discuss the gas issue.

INTERFAX earlier learned from well-placed sources that a visit by Belarusian Premier Mikhail Chigir to Moscow, slated for Wednesday, has been postponed for one-two weeks. The main reason for the visit's postponement was the need to put the final touches on a package of bilateral economic accords, agreed, by and large, earlier in Moscow. Meanwhile, at the talks in Moscow, Belarusian representatives have offered to buy oil at an average price of $26 per [metric] tonne, as is charged inside Russia. However, Moscow has declined this offer, declaring that it will sell oil to Belarus only at world prices given that it is a foreign state.

Out of the 16.4 billion cubic meters of gas Gazprom is to supply to Belarus in 1994, 11.5 billion cubic meters were delivered in the first ten months of the year.

Incidents Involving Russians Abroad Become More Frequent

MM1711162094 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 16 Nov 94 p 3

[Report by Gennadiy Charodeyev: "Russian Foreign Ministry Believes That the Place for Our People Is in Our Prisons"]

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[FBIS Translated Text] According to employees of the Russian Foreign Ministry consular service, in the past few months incidents involving our compatriots abroad have become significantly more frequent.

Dozens of people have been arrested and are being kept in custody on virtually all continents. They are being insulted, oppressed, and sometimes beaten. Russian embassies and consulates are doing all they can to ease their lot. "However, we do not have enough money to send people home on a mass scale at the state's expense," Russian diplomats are complaining. "The 'new Russians' have literally poured into foreign parts. But when they come up against misfortune, their own firms renounce them. In that case, no one can help them except us...."

The Russian seaman Vadim Surkov, who was sentenced to 17 years' imprisonment by a Manila court, is returning to Moscow in a few days' time with the permission of the Philippine authorities.

As a Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman told IZVESTIYA, our embassy in Manila has exerted a lot of effort to ease the fate of a compatriot who "took a false step" abroad and to return him home. The consulate general in the Philippines managed to secure Surkov's release from custody until the trial. So that the former seaman could earn his keep, he was given work at the embassy.

In September the court sentenced Vadim Surkov to 17 years' strict-regime imprisonment for unlawful possession of firearms. But he was lucky. In October President Fidel Ramos of the Philippines adopted a decision to pardon the criminal and exchange him for a Philippine seaman who had committed a crime somewhere in the expanses of the Russian Far East. The Filipino was pardoned by Boris Yeltsin.

Vadim Surkov now has to face an unforgettable meeting with Russian investigators, who intend to really get to the bottom of the case of the unlawful transportation and storage of weapons by our seaman in the Philippines.

Meanwhile, on the island of Mauritius, Interpol officials, alerted by special services from Moscow, arrested citizen N., who had committed a serious crime, escaped from Russia, and tried to hide from justice in the African jungle. They organized a raid, arrested him in his own bungalow, and took him to his historical motherland in handcuffs.

Foreign Intelligence Possibly Behind Kholodov's Murder

LD1711200694 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1800 GMT 17 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The terrorist act against the MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS journalist Dmitriy Kholodov may have been inspired by foreign special services in order to destabilize the situation in the Russian armed forces and in the country as a whole, Major General of Justice Aleksandr Dukhanin, head of the directorate for investigating state crimes, stated at a briefing which took place today in the chief military procurator's office. However, he noted that he was expressing his own opinion since he was not involved in investigating that case.

Journalists were shown some of the material evidence used by British and West German spies whose cases are being investigated at present. They used a very modern range of equipment in their intelligence operations and this was clearly demonstrated.

Also on display were various types of explosives, guns, and other weapons which were used by groups of agents of the special services of countries of the near abroad engaged in carrying out and organizing intelligence and sabotage actions on the territory of Russia. General Dukhanin said that they had carried out a number of acts of sabotage.

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Yeltsin Meets With Intelligentsia in Kremlin

Will Reduce Presidential Staff

LD1811100894 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0938 GMT 18 Nov 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Anna Melnikova]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 18 Nov— "We will get rid of excess ballast within the central staff. In the first place, the staff of the presidential administration will be cut by a third. The government administration staff will also be cut by a third." This was stated by Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin in the Kremlin today, when he met with a large group of intellectuals who sent him an open and critical letter published by IZVESTIYA on 28 October.

"One must make a start oneself," noted the president, referring to the message to the Federal Assembly. The document says that the scale of the current reforms in Russia will require self-restraint on the part of everyone.

Meeting cultural figures, the president stressed that, apart from the cuts in the presidential administration staff and the government administration staff, it is necessary to see to it that "local administrations should follow this example." The president thinks that "the taxpayer, who is barely able to make ends meet, is unable" to feed an army of officials.

The letter to the president, signed by Dmitriy Likhachev, Vasiliy Bykov, Boris Vasilyev, Bulat Okudzhava, Bella Akhmadulina, Oleg Basilashvili, and Mikhail Zhvanetskiy, protests against opposition supporters being put forward behind the scenes for leading posts within the Russan Federation Government and against the head of state being distant from democratic parties and the public.

At a recent conference with members of the Presidential Council concerning domestic policies, Boris Yeltsin said that the criticism has not gone unnoticed and that it was useful to the president. Today's meeting with the authors of the letter confirms this.

Promotes New Financial Policy, Reforms

LD1811104894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1011 GMT 18 Nov 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Anna Melnikova]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow November 18 TASS— Russian President Boris Yeltsin urged intelligentsia to "unite the democratically-minded part of society" and added that "it is time to advance and to win back economy from the crisis."

"The financial policy for this has been determined, it is fixed in the 1995 draft budget," he said at a meeting with Russian intellectuals on Friday.

Yeltsin admitted that the situation in the country is "difficult and it is inadmissible to relax." "The year of 1994 resulted in the biggest industrial slump, but the course of reforms was preserved," the president said and warned against hopes that the reshuffled government would soon change the situation for the better.

"We had to begin reforms so quickly that we, unfortunately, had no time to forsee all the necessary rescue means," Yeltsin said and added that the strong presidential authority "ensured the minimum of stability which is necessary for progress."

At present "new people are needed who are capable of ensuring changes and reforms," Yeltsin said commenting on the recent reshuffling of the government.

He praised new Economics Minister Evgeniy Yasin, as well as Anatoliy Chubays who he promoted to the rank of the first deputy prime minister. Yasin is a "sober and broad-minded professional, a true marketeer," the president said and expressed hope that the new minister will boost economic reforms in line with his concepts.

Chubays, according to the Russian leader, is a man "who would not make a single step away from reforms."

Commenting on other appointments, Yeltsin said that none of the new government ministers had been chosen at random. Still he added that it would be naive to expect that "the personnel reshuffling would immediately solve all the problems."

On 'Alliance of Democratic Forces'

LD1811122894 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1152 GMT 18 Nov 94

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Announcer Natalya Romanova] Hello, Novosti from Ostankino on the air. President Boris Yeltsin met representatives of creative intelligentsia today. He called on Russia's intellectual elite to facilitate the cohesion of the democratic part of society. He said that it would be precisely an alliance of democratic forces that would become the guarantee of progress for Russian reforms. In conclusion, Yeltsin said:

[Begin Yeltsin recording] Esteemed writers, scientists, journalists, and artists—use your intellect, prestige, and talents to help the democratically-minded part of society to rally together. You can reach the human mind and people's hearts directly. What newspaper would deny you its columns? What TV channel would deny you air time?

Politicians have become a familiar sight, but you will be heard and understood so much better. In your letter you have touched on a rather broad range of problems and this was expressed in the form of questions.

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I make so bold as to assume that while pondering them, you were seeking answers to them. We did likewise. Do put them forward now, because so many enlightened heads are better than one. I will readily make use of your constructive proposals and your support in the course of their implementation. I am, as ever, ready to hear you with attention. [end recording]

Observers See Changes in Yeltsin Image

MK1811103594 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 18 Nov 94 p 1

[Report by Yevgeniy Krasnikov under the "Prospect" rubric: "Boris Yeltsin Seems To Be Changing Strategy, Not Tactics. The Question of the Duma's Early Dissolution Is Becoming Increasingly Hot"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Evidently, there is not much point any longer in guessing whether or not Boris Yeltsin will dare break with the Russian democrats, whose support ensured him the presidency. The break has occurred. One does not need to draw up complex political theories to come to this conclusion; suffice it simply to take a look at newspapers or the television screen and to hear what Gennadiy Burbulis, Boris Fedorov, and Grigoriy Yavlinskiy say. As for statements about conditional support from Democratic Russia or Yegor Gaydar, they appear to have been inspired not so much by their heartfelt, ardent loyalty or the inertia of their political thinking, but rather by cool political calculations: it is not the right time yet.

Presently, the president's political image is changing in the most drastic fashion. What could be discerned as a trend at the beginning of the year has now become an evident fact. In order to finish (or to continue) his political career with dignity, or at least to secure for himself a peaceful post-presidential existence, Boris Yeltsin needs to acquire new allies and to change the dynamics of political development. This is not an easy task. It is not enough to expel radical democrats from his entourage in order to accomplish this; it seems that the current government, too, will have to be sacrificed.

In fact, there are grounds to infer that Boris Yeltsin was interested in a no-confidence vote in the Chernomyrdin government. Supporting this consideration is not only an article by Andranik Migranyan, member of the Presidential Council, which was recently published in NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA, but also reports on corresponding work with parliamentary factions conducted by Yuriy Petrov, the president's closest ally, who has recently been gaining clout. This theory also explains the reprisals that have been visited on the State Duma's only pro-government faction—the Party for Russian Unity and Accord.

Following the ill-fated vote, Deputy Prime Minister Aleksandr Shokhin had to resign. To all appearance, Justice Minister Yuriy Kalmykov will soon follow suit. The resignation of another deputy prime minister—Sergey Shakhray, who has now been stripped of virtually all his powers—is evidently a matter of the very near future.

If a new image of the Russian president is to be created, however, it will not be enough for him to get rid of inconvenient political allies. In order to fill the vacuum that has emerged after the democrats' departure, Yeltsin might need a new ideology. But the social democratic model can hardly be considered suitable for this role. On one hand, it has already been taken up by the left; on the other, it smacks too much of moderation and careful diligence [reference to a line from Griboyedov's "Misfortune of Being Clever"] to sweep the masses.

Presumably, such an ideology could be found in patriotism, even if not necessarily enlightened patriotism. The well-publicized statements by Mikhail Poltoranin and Boris Mironov seem to have represented the first such attempt. But it is well known that practice makes perfect. Then, at the eleventh hour, Boris Yeltsin apparently did not venture an open break with the democrats and did Mironov in, lock, stock, and barrel, thus doing an extremely ill turn to Poltoranin. Probably this unredressed offense is precisely the reason for Mikhail Nikiforovich's unexpected anti-presidential statements.

It is obviously very upsetting indeed to see other, more successful competitors reaping the harvest you have sown. The "Krasnodar Group" (upper chamber speaker Vladimir Shumeyko and Nationalities Minister Nikolay Yegorov) have clear chances of success in the struggle for the ruler's heart. Its key ideas are Russian national patriotism and delayed elections. This may be not the perfect way out for the president, but in this situation it is not the worst one, either.

By the same token, a prominent politician (formerly known for being particularly close to Yeltsin) said at a closed-door meeting yesterday that currently a situation has come about where the president has simply nowhere to go from his post. It seems fairly doubtful that the new president, who will come to power riding the tide of criticism being leveled at the current regime, would let Boris Nikolayevich peacefully while away his time at a Yeltsin Fund instead of proclaiming him responsible for all failures and tragedies of the past few years.

Meanwhile, the president is catastrophically running out of the time he needs to take the situation under control. The continuing downslide in the economy and a clear change in the public temperature (the communists' successes in the St. Petersburg local elections and the populist Sergey Mavrodi's victory in Moscow Oblast)—all internal indicators of a bad turn of events are evident. As for external indicators, they are also fairly disconcerting. They include the defeat of the Democratic Party in the U.S. midterm elections in the first place. For the opposition is criticizing Clinton not only for the growth of taxes and crime, but also for giving priority to relations with Russia. Political battles in the United States may affect in the most tangible manner the

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financing of the Russian budget, which has already included among its revenues liberal Western subsidies that clearly will not materialize.

For this reason one can conclude that it would be much more profitable for the president to engage in "head-on combat," to ratchet up political tension right at this juncture, and to crush his opponents now that they are fairly weak and scattered (as was the case in the fall of 1993). By staging a budget crisis and dissolving the State Duma afterward Yeltsin would deprive many meddlesome candidates of a public rostrum and get rid of control by the legislative branch for a more or less long time to come. The formation of a new government and a new ideology aided by Yuriy Skokov or Sergey Glazyev (you fill in the blanks) would help him win allies so as to finish his political career smoothly.

And what if it went the other way around?

It transpired from confidential sources yesterday that Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn has greatly influenced Boris Yeltsin's attitude to the State Duma. It has changed for the better. Moreover, it changed to such an extent that the president plans to appoint his favorite aide, Viktor Ilyushin, as coordinator of the administration's cooperation with the Duma. If this is indeed not a one-time emotional gesture, the scenario of the State Duma's dissolution does not work. But one should not forget that all sympathies aside, the problem of power remains the key issue for a politician all the same.

Gorbachev Condemns Corruption, Urges Elections

BR1811111194 Paris LE NOUVEL OBSERVATEUR in French 17-23 Nov 94 pp 138, 140

[Interview with former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev by K.S. Karol; place and date not given: "Gorbachev: 'If We Want To Save Russia...'"—first paragraph is LE NOUVEL OBSERVATEUR introduction]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Boris Yeltsin's Russia is going adrift - Mikhail Gorbachev is not the only one to be saying so, but he is among those who believe that this process can be stopped. And he is proposing some remedies to this end. Jovial, eloquent, this man from the south—he was born in Stavropol, in northern Caucasus—cannot even conceive of being addressed in any other way than by his patronymic, Mikhail Sergeyevich. Displaying great self- confidence, he is nevertheless very attentive to any argument advanced by his interlocutors. Sometimes he jokingly speaks of himself in the third person: "It is me who is saying this, not Gorbachev," as if to mark the difference between his present status and the presidential role which he fulfilled for six years as the USSR's leader. Of course, he does not forget even for a minute that he is a historical figure, crowned with the peace Nobel Prize for having put an end to the Cold War and freed humanity from the threat of a nuclear holocaust. He speaks of this in the five volumes of his memoirs—2,300 pages—shortly to be published in Germany and Russia. But this does not mean that he considers himself a man of the past who could possibly be satisfied with extra-governmental activities, such as the chairmanship of the environmental organization Green Cross, which he currently holds. Russia continues to be Gorbachev's priority concern. He may not feel responsible for its future, but he does consider himself one of the protagonists of its political life. And he approaches his present tasks with the same passion with which he launched Perestroyka, convinced—as he was at the time—that events will eventually prove him right.

[Karol] Mikhail Sergeyevich, you have launched the Social Democratic Union of Russia and, almost simultaneously, called for the reelection, as soon as possible, of all the country's executive officials, from the president of the Republic down to the mayor of the smallest village. How could your Social Democratic Union, which has just been set up, face early elections so quickly?

[Gorbachev] I am not trying to impose a new party, but to salvage what can still be salvaged in Russia. The present regime has reached the end of the rope, it will not hold until the expiration of Boris Yeltsin's term in June 1996. Among the "democrats" who brought him to power, there are now some who are looking for a Russian Pinochet [former Chilean dictator] to bring some order to the country and save their regime. I disagree with this, and so does the majority of public opinion. But if we do nothing about it, the regime will be dragged down in the street by angry crowds, with the risk of a civil war. This is why I consider going to the polls the only democratic and peaceful solution, which will enable us to prevent bloodshed.

[Karol] But, from the opinion polls, the men in power know that their electoral support is very limited, and therefore it is not in their interest to move hastily into an electoral process...

[Gorbachev] This is correct. But it is not them I am addressing. I am asking citizens to set up, everywhere, committees to monitor the elections. I do not trust the present power, and I know that it will try to rig the elections.

[Karol] Your plan involves a great deal of grassroots activity, whereas, judging from all the indications, the population is rather passive.

[Gorbachev] You must not judge from appearances nor believe the government's press. On 27 October there was a major strike in Russia. Eight million workers refused to work, but remained in their workplaces, without taking to the streets nor creating incidents. They launched this movement for economic reasons, of course, against the delays in paying their wages. But they also announced that, after this warning strike, the next one would be a political one. Have the men in the Kremlin understood this message? I do not know. What I do know, however,

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is that people are no longer fooled by the "democrats'" rhetoric. Russia is not a victim of democracy, but of the lack of it.

[Karol] Two years ago filmmaker Aleksandr Gavorukin, who in the meantime has become an opposition deputy, spoke in a pamphlet about "the great criminal revolution." Last month, progovernment daily IZVESTIYA used exactly the same terms in a series of articles on the extent of the criminal activities which are blatantly carried out on the occasion of government property being privatized...

[Gorbachev] Much too blatantly and with impunity. This is one of the reasons why people have had enough. Sooner or later they will present a very steep bill to the thieves who are getting rich before their very eyes. I am in favor of evolution rather than a revolution which sweeps away everything to start from scratch, and this is why I am proposing an electoral contest to decide whether or not Russia ought to become a civilized democratic country.

[Karol] Will those who are profiting by the present situation allow their advantages to be called into question by an election whose outcome is uncertain?

[Gorbachev] Do you think they prefer to be chased by angry crowds in the public squares?

[Karol] They can wait for the expiration of the present mandate in 1996, and then have a suitable president elected, with the help of their money...

[Gorbachev] Why are you being so pessimistic? I am telling you that what is going on in Russia cannot last very long. In Belarus, to mention only one example, the candidate of the wealthiest sections of the population, Prime Minister Kebich, was defeated hands down by Lukashenka, a deputy who fought against him without a cent to his name.

[Karol] There have also been some changes in the West, now that the "specter of Communism" no longer haunts the world. For example, certain social conquests which were thought untouchable are again being called into question.

[Gorbachev] Those who are doing this will lose out. In east Europe, they are already losing ground. I am now being asked to explain the comeback of "communists" to power in Poland, Hungary, or tomorrow in Bulgaria. These are obviously not Bolsheviks but reformers, social democrats, like in many other parts of the world. Their success is explained by the mistaken calculations of those who thought that, after the fall of the Berlin wall, the very concept of social justice could be abolished in this part of the world. [passage omitted]

[Karol] Are you not concerned that the elections may only favor Zhirinovskiy nationalists?

[Gorbachev] Zhirinovskiy is at the same time Yeltsin's alibi and accomplice. Yeltsin wants to make the world believe that the only possible choice in Russia is between himself and that demagog. And Westerners let themselves be fooled! Zhirinovskiy was with Yeltsin when, in October 1993, the latter ordered his troops to fire on parliament—and, in fact, on the country as a whole!

[Karol] Have you not become more critical of the West than when you were at the Kremlin?

[Gorbachev] Together, we brought the Cold War to an end, I have not forgotten this, and I obviously do not regret it. But, having hoped that each side would seize this opportunity to further the disarmament process, I am disappointed by the Americans' insistence on maintaining and even extending NATO. What use will this be to them? To reinforce their control over Europe? For my part, I have not changed my views since I left the Kremlin. Europe is our common home, and we must manage things so that nobody feels threatened or excluded within it. We must create a peace force capable of interposing between any belligerent sides, and above all to prevent wars, such as the one in Yugoslavia. You may find me repetitive, but I firmly believe in finding a political solution to crises. If this principle had been applied, perhaps the war in the former Yugoslavia could have been avoided.

Luzhkov Says He Will Support Yeltsin 'To The End'

LD1611160694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1521 GMT 16 Nov 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tamara Zamyatina]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow November 16 TASS—Moscow Mayor Yuriy Luzhkov said he would not run for Russian presidency in 1996.

Speaking at a meeting of Russian mass media leaders at the ITAR- TASS headquarters on Wednesday, Luzhkov said that he "will support Boris Yeltsin to the end. I have no intention of running for the office of Russian president."

At the same time, he confirmed that "if mayoral elections are held in Moscow in 1996, I will join in because two years are not enough to achieve my goals."

Luzhkov stressed that "I do not want to be in politics, I loathe it."

Asked about his relationships with the president, Luzhkov replied that he values his "unwritten" right to contact the president in case of emergency and "be received during the day."

Liberal Democratic Union on Fund Objectives

MM1711145994 Moscow TRUD in Russian 16 Nov 94 p 4

[Appeal by the Liberal Democratic Fund: "Our Program is Your Program"]

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[FBIS Translated Text] Esteemed Russians!

Members of the "Liberal Democratic Union" faction in the State Duma have set up the Liberal Democratic Fund, whose aim is to make Russia strong and democratic and implement reforms in people's interests via elections. We are neither left-wing nor right-wing but ordinary people who are sick and tired of the chaos and anarchy. We are the democratic opposition. We hope that with your help we will have a program which reflects people's aspirations and whose fulfilement will be easy to verify. If you agree with us and have suggestions to make, we would ask you to write to us.

[signed] B.G. Fedorov, president of the Liberal Democratic Fund and Duma deputy.

We Will Recreate a Strong Russian State!

The main thing is that Russia be united and indivisible and that all interests be taken into account.

The equal status of the components of the Federation, the abolition of treaties between the center and the components and of political privileges. No to sovereignty within Russia, yes to self-government. The unconditional right to local self-government.

The expansion of the rights of the components of the Federation and a stable tax base for all levels of power. Tax arrears must be collected from those components of the Federation which are shifting the burden of common expenditure onto others.

The resettlement of people and transfer of production from regions of Siberia unfit for habitation. The development of the Far East and Siberia; concessions for investments and migrants from the CIS, transport, and highways to reinforce links among the regions.

A civilized solution to the Chechnya problem within six months on the basis of decisions of the constitutional organs of power.

The inclusion in the Constitution of an article on the desire for reunification with Kazakhstan, the Ukraine [Ukraine], and Belorussia [Belarus] on the basis of a referendum.

The creation of an impermeable [neprozrachnyy] border with all countries prior to the conclusion of a politico-economic union with them. The rejection of the revision of borders.

The withdrawal within six months of Russian troops from abroad except when needed to protect Russian citizens and in UN-sponsored missions.

The rejection of foreign "aid" for Russia; reliance on our own efforts. The refusal of our help to foreign countries for political reasons.

We appeal for help to organizations and citizens and thank those who have given their support. Those who want to set up a support department or group for the Liberal Democratic Fund should contact the following address: 3d Neglinnyy Pereulok 5/23, 103031 Moscow. Telephone: 200-69-21. Account number 700025, Tokobank, correspondent account no. 161405, Central Bank Main Administration Main Cash Payment Center, Moscow, sort code 44583001 (section 83).

We offer you victory in the next elections and the establishment of order in Russia.

Majority Party Forms Voting Bloc With Unions

MK1811111094 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 18 Nov 94 p 2

[Report by Nikolay Ulyanov under the "Party Life" rubric: "New Electoral Bloc To Be Set Up. It Will Include Majority Party, Civic Union, Independent Trade Unions, and Other Organizations"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Your NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA correspondent has learned that the Majority Party, which has announced the completion of its campaign to raise 1 million signatures required for requesting a referendum on the establishment of a constitutional monarchy in Russia, in the absence of clear guarantees of the authorities' willingness to call a referendum, has decided to start preparations for the upcoming parliamentary and presidential elections. The issue is the creation of a large centrist electoral bloc. Party Chairman Vyacheslav Grechnev clarified this information at your NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA correspondent's request.

In his words, the party leadership is still awaiting a reaction from the president on the signatures raised by the party, for "one cannot ignore the signatures of a whole million of his compatriots, after all." Moreover, according to Mr. Grechnev, with the possible adoption of a new law on referendums in the near future in mind, the party decided to continue gathering signatures so as to reach the target of 2 million. There is nothing strange in the questions put to a referendum, Mr. Grechnev thinks: "As for a monarchy, the rise in corresponding sentiments we have been following is clearly evident: while last spring one out of ten Russians was a monarchist, now it is one of every five. And a vast majority are still undecided."

Despite being convinced of the correctness of his line, however, Mr. Grechnev confirmed reports about the creation of a new electoral bloc. In his words, this will be a "centrist, moderately conservative bloc that will bring together influential parties and public movements." Mr. Grechnev would not name all participants in the bloc with whom he said oral agreement has been reached, noting that this will be announced at a news conference due to be held today at the Radisson-Slavyanskaya hotel. Among bloc members he mentioned only the Civic Union electoral association and "other influential socio-political organizations, including independent trade unions." As he put it, the "'Third Force Union' plans to

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occupy the niche at the center, which, despite numerous commitments to the idea of centrism, is diluted and half-empty."

DPR Schedules No-Confidence Vote on Travkin

MK1811105094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 18 Nov 94 p 2

[Report by Gleb Cherkasov under the "Struggle" rubric: "DPR Chooses Between Travkin and Glazyev. Majority Wants Neither"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The situation inside the Democratic Party of Russia [DPR] remains extremely tense. SEGODNYA has already reported that a meeting of the DPR national committee last weekend gave a no-confidence vote to party leader Nikolay Travkin and set the next congress for 17 December. According to "anti-Travkin" opposition spokesmen, Mr. Travkin is currently supported by an obvious minority of DPR deputies in the Duma. The main complaints against Nikolay Travkin advanced by his opponents consist in that Mr. Travkin has departed from the party policy declared during the election campaign. Sergey Glazyev, Duma economic policy committee chairman, is supposedly to become the DPR's new leader after the congress.

It should be pointed out that a part of the DPR are not eager at all to rally to Mr. Glazyev's banners while being still rather guarded toward Mr. Travkin. According to Ilya Roytman, Institute of Politics and Foreign Relations director, the number of advocates and opponents of Sergey Glazyev's becoming the party head is roughly equal among those who have for a long time worked in DPR leading positions. However, Mr. Roytman vouches, some regional organizations that at first supported the "anti-Travkin opposition" are already revising their positions. Ilya Roytman believes that should Sergey Glazyev become leader of the DPR, the party would finally lose its identity to gradually turn into a "National Salvation Front branch." While having strong doubts that the party led by Sergey Glazyev would be able to clear the 5-percent hurdle in the next elections, other sources in the DPR leadership are inclined to hope for the common sense of its rank and file members interested in preserving the DPR.

The internal conflict in the DPR is of special interest also because "Travkin's party" still remains one of the most serious political structures in Russia. Should Sergey Glazyev's "inauguration" plans be crowned with success, part of the party will get a leader who matches their opposition moods, whereas Mr. Glazyev, believed to be one of the most promising opposition leaders, would be able to lean on a rather efficient organization. Curiously, in this event Sergey Glazyev will become a third ex-minister to lead a public or political organization (the trailblazers are of course Gaydar and Fedorov). Should the opponents of the Duma committee chairman gain the upper hand, the DPR may continue to look for allies among the "democratic opposition." The final resolution of the conflict inside the party is not going to happen before 17 December, at any rate.

Ivanov on Northwestern Association Agreement

LD1711203194 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1800 GMT 17 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] An agreement on setting up the northwestern parliamentary association was signed today at a conference in Vologda by representatives of the legislative bodies of the republics and oblasts of this Russian region.

An ITAR-TASS correspondent was told by Vasiliy Ivanov, chairman of the Leningrad oblast legislative assembly, that the participants in the conference believe that the association will help them exchange experience in the sphere of self-government, drawing up the budget, and joint protection of the interests of association members in federal structures.

Ministries Investigate Kaliningrad Murders

LD1711170894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1603 GMT 17 Nov 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondents Valeriy Sevryukov and Vladimir Suprun]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow November 17 TASS—The Russian Foreign Ministry is maintaining close contacts with Russian law enforcement bodies following an assassination of three Polish citizens in the Kaliningrad region in the west of Russia, Grigoriy Karasin, director of the press and information department of the Russian Foreign Ministry, said at a briefing held here today.

The diplomat said that the Russian Interior Ministry has "certain information" at its disposal which will make it possible to announce the names of the criminals in the next few days and take tough measures to punish them by law.

"We are sorry about what had happened," Karasin said. "The Russian Foreign Ministry is creating the necessary structure in Russo-Polish relations to discourage those who want to flare up similar incidents for political or other reasons," the Russian diplomat said.

Official on FCS Murder Suspects' Identification

MM1711163094 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 16 Nov 94 pp 1,2

[Report by Igor Andreyev: "Concern About the Future of the FCS May Have Forced Stepashin To Mount a 'New Year's Eve Guard'"]

[FBIS Translated Text] As has already been reported, a few days before the State Duma was to discuss the presidential draft law on the FCS [Federal Counterintelligence Service], Sergey Stepashin, the director of the department, met with members of the "Russia's Choice"

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faction. Answering tough questions from the "Russia's Choice" members on the investigation into the political killings, the head of Russian Federation counterintelligence stated: The killers of Aleksandr Men and Dmitriy Kholodov will be named by the end of the year. A suspect in the murder of parliamentary Deputy Andrey Ayzderdzis has already been found, according to Stepashin.

Commenting at IZVESTIYA's request on his boss's statement, Aleksandr Mikhaylov, chief of the FCS Public Relations Center, expressed confidence that it was made on the basis of certain firmly established facts which Stepashin has at his disposal. But this does not mean that the information has been obtained by counterintelligence alone, although it has specifically been given the leading role in the fight against terrorism. A lot of cases of this type, the Public Relations Center chief stressed, involve triple jurisdiction, and are conducted by organs of the prosecutor's office, internal affairs, and the special services in close contact. And in this respect Stepashin's statement should be understood not only as the response of the FCS director, but also as the response of a member of the Russian Federation Security Council. That is, the promise to name the killers of A. Men and D. Kholodov in the near future comes from all three law enforcement structures.

Acting under the direct leadership of the prosecutor's office in their own spheres, the FCS and the MVD [Ministry of Internal Affairs] are constantly exchanging information. The counterintelligence service is conducting the search for D. Kholodov's killers on the broadest front, and guidelines have been sent to all FCS territorial administrations.

If the investigation into the murder of A. Men had proceeded in accordance with our way of searching for culprits, the Public Relations Center chief maintains, they would have been arrested long ago. Straight away, a powerful group from the then KGB was involved in investigating the tragedy, operating on the spot until August 1991, when, for obvious reasons, it was de facto taken off the case and only carried out one-shot instructions from the Moscow Oblast Prosecutor's Office.

Having noted that the public's great interest in the murders of A. Men, D. Kholodov, and A. Ayzderdzis is at odds with the natural caution of the investigation bodies, which are wary of publishing operational information, A. Mikhaylov stressed once again that the FCS director does have reason to make a statement that is so binding on him. But he found it hard to explain why, virtually in the best traditions of socialist "counterplans" and other plans, Stepashin has timed the catching of the criminals to coincide with the New Year....

The circumstances preceding the announcement also suggest a relapse into the recent past. Last week the leaders of the MVD, the FCS, and the Russian Prosecutor's Office were summoned to be reproved by the president. Although hardly any details of the top-level conversation were reported, the public was given to understand that the president was not satisfied with the activity of the three departments in the fight against crime. It can easily be assumed that counterintelligence may be the first to find itself criticized by the authorities and the public. First of all, as the leading structure called upon to oppose political and other terrorism. And secondly, because, in just under a year—the time that has passed since the president's December edict on the disbandment of the Russian Ministry of Security—the FCS, the successor to the Ministry of Security, has not been able to demonstrate clear successes in this field. Concern for the department headed by him, over which the shadow of the KGB in its various forms is hanging and the desire to save the newly arisen counterintelligence service from new and very painful upheavals, probably forced Sergey Stepashin to stake his word. Or is it the hope that in six weeks' time—a long period in our times—no one will remember the promise? Hardly. They will remember, for sure.

Economic Issues

Panskov Notes 'Realistic' 1995 Budget

LD1711142494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1247 GMT 17 Nov 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow November 17 TASS—Russia's federal budget for 1995 is based on realistic figures, Russian Finance Minister Vladimir Panskov said.

Addressing the State Duma on Thursday, he said that minimum budget revenues had been planned. "The budget is more realistic for its revenues and possibilities to get them are more realistic," he said. The budget revenues are planned to total 144.2 trillion roubles, which accounts for 15.6 percent of the gross domestic product.

The minister noted that spendings for the country's social needs and financial support of provinces remained unchanged. A total of 27 percent of all revenues from the value-added taxes are planned to be channeled for financial support of provinces. An additional one trillion roubles will be subsidised to several regions.

The budget has focused on housing construction in autonomous republics of the Russian Federation. A total 4.3 trillion roubles will be allocated for this purpose. Spendings for food and material resources supplies to the Arctic regions will increase, the minister said.

According to Panskov, the cabinet plans to cover the budget deficit by issuing securities as well as receiving a 12.7 billion dollar credit from foreign countries.

Calls To Refrain From Borrowing

LD1711160194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1431 GMT 17 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Russian Finance Minister Vladimir Panskov, speaking in parliament on Thursday,

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called for refraining from borrowing from the Central Bank of Russia to narrow next year's budget deficit. To do so is ineffective, he said.

The government believes the balancing of revenues and expenditures at one level would be a more justified though more painful measure, he said.

The minister said the proposed budget envisages foreign credits and the issuing of government bonds being the main methods of narrowing the budget deficit. Both commercial structures and individuals are expected to engage in operations with securities and bonds. The government plans to derive raise 43.2 trillion rubles in revenues from the sale of securities.

On the issue of an estimated $12.7 billion foreign credit, Panskov said the negotiations held with IMF officials in September and October encourage the conclusion that the IMF thinks the proposed government program to be realistic. In his view, the IMF may provide a $6 billion stand-by credit to shore it up.

The minister said Moscow planned to borrow a $1.5 billion easy- term credit from the World Bank to keep up the country's balance of payments and issue one or several medium-term bonds on Western currency markets for $2 billion.

Plans are also under way to attract tied medium or longer term investment credits at a total value of $3.2 billion. Investment projects will be selected on the basis of recoupment, loan repayment prospects and priorities for the country's economic development.

Asked why the government prefers relying on foreign credits, Panskov said these were granted on fairly easy terms, something it has so far failed to find at home.

Government estimates put overall investment by corporate bodies and individuals at 120 trillion rubles, Finance Minister Vladimir Panskov told reporters in Moscow on Thursday.

He said the government could raise a little over 40 trillion rubles from the sale of securities and bonds including 4 trillion rubles from public savings.

The minister ruled out any compulsory distribution of bonds, saying whatever "separate proposals" there are relate only to the reserve funds of banks, joint ventures and so on.

He thinks the 1995 draft budget is feasible unless it is substantially amended following a Duma struggle for higher expenditure. Panskov said he saw no sources of extra revenues and as the finance minister would insist on the revenue part remaining intact.

On the idea of a ban on borrowing from the Central Bank for narrowing the budget deficit, something that a number of deputies say must be legislated, Panskov refused to rule out CBR credits in the future, but only after the Federal Assembly passes appropriate laws, he said.

The minister believes it is quite realistic to borrow abroad as a way of funding the deficit, given that Russia repays its debt in time and the 1995 budget envisages substantial resources for servicing its external debt.

Urinson Works To Preserve Price Regulation

LD1711200794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1724 GMT 17 Nov 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature: compiled by Nikolay Zherebtsov and Andrey Petrovskiy; edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] On Thursday Russian Government approved proposals on regulating prices formation prepared by the Economics Ministry which are to be presented as the cabinet's resolution within a week. The essence of the proposals of the Economics Ministry presented by First Deputy Economics Minister Yakov Urinson is to preserve state regulation of prices in branches which are natural monopolies, for example, in power engineering, in rail way and pipeline transport, it also concerns separate communication services and commodities procured exclusively by the state. Liberalization of prices in other branches will be continued.

According to Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin who chaired the sitting, this price regulation concerns only a narrow spectrum of goods and services and nobody intends to return to regulation in those fields where the prices were released. Chernomyrdin pointed out that the government approved three lists of production, goods, and services for which the state regulates prices and tariffs on the domestic market. These lists can be reduced but not expanded.

The lists include natural and casing-head gas, electric power and thermal energy, transshipment and filling of oil, products manufactured by the defense industry, precious metals and alloys, shipments of cargo, luggage, mail, and passengers by rail way transport, loading and unloading operations in ports, servicing of airplanes, several services of the mail and electric communication.

In an interview with Interfax Yakov Urinson declared that the Economics Ministry deems it absolutely unacceptable to approve proposals of several departments to freeze tariffs for electric energy and rail way transportations. According to the Economics Ministry experts, if tariffs are frozen the state would have to pay 10 trillion rubles annually to the domestic metallurgy in the form of subsidies for fixed tariffs, and freezing of rail way tariffs would cost 20 trillion rubles a year.

In Chernomyrdin's words, the decision on price regulation was predetermined by a tough budget for 1995. He is convinced that it would be impossible to execute the

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budget to full extent without the decision on price regulation in several branches of economy.

Paper Says Polevanov 'Toes Presidential Line'

MM1711171594 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 17 Nov 94 p 1

[Commentary by Lev Chernenko under the "Cadres" rubric: "Former Chief Geologist Appointed as Chief Privatizer. Will He Manage To Separate the 'Ore from the Slag' in New Venture?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The ways of Russian cadre policy really are inscrutable. It came as a complete surprise that Vladimir Polevanov, who had hitherto occupied the post of Amur Oblast Administration chairman, had been appointed vice premier and chairman of the State Committee for the Management of State Property [Goskomimushchestvo]. The promotion of representatives of the regional elite into positions of power in federal structures is, of course, a regular and necessary process. The present government includes very few people who have been through the school of governorship, which definitely has an effect both on the effectiveness of regional policies and the relations between the center and the periphery. It is possible to find the following people from the regions in the cabinet today—the Petersburger Anatoliy Chubays, his compatriot the recently appointed Aleksey Bolshakov, Yuriy Shafranik from Tyumen, and Nikolay Yegorov from Krasnodar. Former Sakhalin Governor Valentin Fedorov filled the post of deputy economics minister for a short time.

In short, regional cadres' potential in the government is poor and should, of course, be strengthened. But how? If, for example, Krasnodar Governor Nikolay Yegorov is appointed minister of nationalities affairs and regional policy, this is completely understandable and justified. It was after all in this very region with its multiethnic population, influx of refugees, and dangerously close proximity to the Caucasian trouble spots that the governor succeeded in guaranteeing stability and preventing interethnic conflicts. Moreover, Nikolay Yegorov was the initiator of joint actions in this and other regions of the North Caucasus, which won him his authority. Thus the appointment of the Krasnodar governor to the post of minister is completely justified and understandable: He can now use his experience to effect at the federal level.

Let us now look at Vladimir Polevanov's appointment from this angle. It is also probably no accident. Maybe Amur Oblast achieved particular success in implementing reform? No, the socioeconomic situation in the region is fairly difficult. Maybe there have been some unprecedented successes in privatization? No, here too there has not been any particular "verve" compared to other regions. Does the new Goskomimushchestvo head have a professional knowledge of his future field of activity? No, he was trained as an geological engineer, is a doctor of geologico-mineralogical sciences. He was an engineer in prospecting crews, led expeditions in Kolyma, worked as chief geologist for the "Amurogeologiya" association, then became its chairman. It was from this post that he rose to the position of governor.

But whatever profession the governor has, what is important is how he has acquitted himself as a politician. Maybe Polevanov had some success in this particular area? Vladimir Polevanov is described at the Russian Federation Presidential Staff Territorial Affairs Administration as an energetic, strong-willed, bright, and knowledgeable person who toes the presidential line precisely. The former Amur Oblast Administration head has to his credit the successful staging of the elections to the oblast Duma in October.

But Vladimir Polevanov has quite a few opponents in Blagoveshchensk itself. First of all, extremely strained relations have developed between him and the presidential representative for Amur Oblast, Grigoriy Nikandrov, who incidentally in his time helped the "Amurogeologiya" leader get the post of governor. But today both consider it impossible to work with each other any more.

Vladimir Polevanov is also in dispute with the Amur regional organization of the "Russia's Democratic Choice" party. The chairman of its political council, Albert Krivchenko, came out with an article "The 'Golden' Governor" in ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI 1 November 1994, in which he accused Polevanov of being inclined toward an authoritarian style of government as well as of violations in the running of the competition for the right to develop the "Pokrovskoye" goldfield and in the distribution of unjustified privileges to a series of gold-mining enterprises and other joint-stock companies to the detriment of the region's interests. The piece also mentioned the fact that the overwhelming majority of Amur Oblast's political parties and public movements have expressed doubt in the expediency of Vladimir Polevanov remaining in the post of administration head any longer. In a letter to Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin they requested that a commission be sent to check out the administration's financial and credit activities.

Immediately after the "'Golden' Governor" piece was published, Vladimir Polevanov phoned the editorial office in person. He stated that ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI, a paper he respected, had really been set up. In his opinion all the facts presented in the article are a complete invention, the fruit of local opposition figures' imaginations. This conversation took place 1 November. Clearly Vladimir Polevanov already knew about his coming appointment and was therefore so confident.

Two weeks after the piece appeared in ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI on 15 November Vladimir Polevanov was appointed to the post of vice premier and Goskomimushchestvo chairman. At least one thing is clear at the moment: The dispute between the president's representative and the governor was resolved in Blagoveshchensk

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in this unexpected manner when the latter climbed into a higher federal orbit. The former chief geologist has become the country's chief privatizer. You do not have to get Vladimir Polevanov used to going prospecting (for minerals). Let us hope that in his new venture he will also be able to separate the "ore from the slag." But this problem does not only exist in geology but in cadre policy also.

Further on Polevanov's Appointment

LD1711201794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1724 GMT 17 Nov 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature: compiled by Nikolay Zherebtsov, Andrey Petrovskiy, edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In the near term Vice Premier Vladimir Polevanov, new chairman of the State Property Committee, intends to change policy of the department headed by him.

In an exclusive interview with Interfax on Wednesday [16 November] Polevanov declared that the State Property Committee would focus its attention on strengthening "institute for managing state property" which "is practically absent in Russia now."

"He indicated that a special attention should be paid to control over utilization of bowels of the earth, "their value is at least $30 trillion."

Polevanov reported that he opposes "any sharp changes" and believes that any transformations should be carried out gradually.

As he said, "it was a 100-percent surprise for him to be appointed to the post of chairman of the State Property Committee."

At the same time presenting the new chairman to the staff of the State Property Committee first Vice Premier Anatoliy Chubays reported that he had proposed Polevanov's candidacy.

"Such a professional as Polevanov is needed to solve new tasks facing the State Property Committee," Chubays underlined.

Economics Minister Yevgeniy Yasin believes that Polevanov's appointment will not bring any radical changes in the privatization policy. In an interview with Interfax he underlined that the government as a whole but not heads of departments determine economic policy in any sphere.

"I hope that the new head of the State Property Committee is an authority on the policy pursued by the government in this sphere," he said.

In Yasin's opinion, there is no sense now to change the privatization program. "The program of monetary privatization has taken into account the overwhelming majority of amendments which were voiced at the first stage," he underlined.

As Yasin believes, "it is necessary to see how the program would be implemented and to correct it depending upon current problems."

Meanwhile, former head of the Economics Ministry Aleksandr Shokhin, head of the leadership of the Party of Russian Unity and Concord faction (PRUC) in the State Duma, was skeptic of Vladimir Polevanov's appointment. "I have several questions due to this appointment. I inquire in the Russia's Choice faction and in the deputies group New Regional Policy whether they carry any moral responsibility for the nomination of head of the administration of the Amur region but I received a negative answer," ex-vice-premier reported to Interfax. In Shokhin's words, he met with Polevanov during President Yeltsin's trip throughout the Far Eastern regions this summer. "Honestly speaking, I did not understand at that time that he is an expert on privatization. Polevanov behaved as a normal governor asking for more money and benefits for the Amur region and demanding that 20 percent of customs tariffs would remain in its budget and that the Zeya hydro electric station is handed over to the region," Shokhin said. He pointed out that he perceived Polevanov's requests as "anti-reformatory." Speaking about the reasons why "such people as Aleksandr Bolshakov and Vladimir Polevanov appear on the leading posts in the government, Shokhin voiced a supposition saying that "the president and the premier apparently wanted to dilute the federal government with representatives of the regions."

Analyzing statements of several members of the PRUC leadership regarding renewals in the cabinet, some observers make a conclusion on possible transfer of the faction in opposition to the government. Experts believe that this is more than probable if the last representative of the party in the government presidium Sergey Shakhray resigns (according to representatives of the Party of Russian Unity and Concord, Shakhray will leave the Cabinet if the decision on appointment of the Nationalities and Regional Policy Minister Nikolay Yegorov to the post of vice premier is adopted).

Staff rearrangements in the government can also change position of the deputies group Union of December 12 which has observed neutrality concerning confidence in the cabinet, leader of the group Boris Fedorov declared to Interfax on Thursday. In his words, the group would probably be in favor of the Cabinet's resignation if there is another vote on non-confidence in the government in the State Duma during consideration of the draft budget for 1995.

During the recent vote on confidence in the Cabinet of Minister representatives of the Union of December 12 group abstained. However, now deputies of his group

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have returned from the regions, where electors urged to force resignation of the government, and changed their opinion, Fedorov said.

"It's quite another thing what will become of this, either the State Duma will be disbanded or a purely communist government will be formed," Fedorov said. In his opinion, now one could name the government a communist one if there were "no 2-3 reformers left in the composition of the government."

Fedorov believes that Anatoliy Chubays "has turned into a decorative figure" after the last reshuffles in the Cabinet of Ministers. Fedorov said that Polevanov "is not a reformer but a man who has no idea what the State Property Committee should do."

IF Note: On October 27 as many as 194 deputies of the State Duma voted for vote of no confidence in Viktor Chernomyrdin's government. As many 32 votes were needed to adopt this decision. Absolute majority of the PRUC [Party of Russian Unity and Accord] faction (except two deputies) opposed resignation of the Cabinet. Fedorov's group abstained during the vote on this issue.

Oil Export Duties to Radically Decrease

LD1811131094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1212 GMT 18 Nov 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Gennadiy Yezhov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow November 18 TASS—Russia will radically decrease export duties on oil and its products from January 1, 1995, First Deputy Economic Minister Yakov Urinson told a press conference on Friday [18 November].

This will mostly concern private companies which do not enjoy any privileges in oil exports and pay 30 ecu for each tonne of exported oil. Most state-run exporters enjoy various privileges in selling fuel abroad.

The decrease in duties is carried out according to a corresponding decree of the president which abolishes privileges in oil exports. "Equal rights for all exporters, as well as lifting of limitations on fuel exports will allow to regulate the oil market exclusively by economic methods," Urisnon said and explained that this can be done through the excise on petrol.

The new duties will allow to reliably meet the demands of the home market, support oil producers and foreign trade activities, Urinson stressed.

Gold Club To Reorganize Gold Industry

LD1711222694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1935 GMT 17 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] About fifty Russian banks will found the Gold Club, an association called to reorganize Russia's gold industry, the head of the organizing committee Viktor Skripchenko has said.

The list of the Gold Club's founders will include gold-mining enterprises, gold refineries, exchanges, insurance companies and pension funds. Skripchenko did not rule out the participation of foreign companies.

In its first move the association, whose constituent conference is scheduled for November 30, will draw up a plan for the issue of high liquidity securities backed up with gold. The plan is to be later authorized by the Russian government.

The funds raised with the help of securities will make it possible to ensure the financing of the gold mining industry for a whole year already in the first quarter of 1995. Experts estimate the needs of the gold-mining industry at about $700-800 million.

Military & Space Issues

Grachev Not To Resign as Defense Minister

LD1711173494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1640 GMT 17 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev does not intend to resign as such following numerous accusations by various parties and media.

Grachev told the high command of the Russian paratroopers Thursday [17 November]: "I am not going to give up, I am a paratrooper and fought in Afghanistan for five years."

Grachev also pointed out he felt support by the military and leaders of regional administrations.

Grachev called on paratroopers to regard attacks against the army "with restraint." If there is disunity in the armed forces, the country will disintegrate, he said.

According to Grachev, "the anti-army campaign" was unleashed by forces trying to control the army. "This is the dirty and meager policy of those who seek offices in state structures. The army bothers such people as it will not stand chaos in the country," he pointed out.

Speaking on the lack of funds faced by the Armed Forces, Grachev said military expenditures of 111 trillion rubles were needed in 1995. He added that only 50 percent of 40.6 trillion rubles set aside for defense for 1994 had been granted. If the government-proposed defense budget for 1995 of 44 trillion rubles is also fulfilled by 50 percent, "the army will simply collapse," he stressed.

Grachev pointed out that only in the Russian Armed Forces people "could serve for those bread crumbs they got." "In any other country, the army would simply flee away, if treated in this manner," he added.

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Warns Not To Use Army in Power Struggle

LD1711171394 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1610 GMT 17 Nov 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Mikhail Shevtsov]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 17 Nov—"The army must not be used as an instrument in the power struggle. That is always dangerous, since it possesses weaponry. The army must not be split by favoring the position of a particular party." This was stated today by Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev when he talked with airborne forces command personnel at the location of the 27th Independent Motorized-Rifle Brigade of airborne troops. He took part in the work of the airborne troops military council in summing up the results of the year and determining the tasks for 1995.

The defense minister is of the view that a struggle for control of the army is now under way. "An army and a minister who do not allow chaos in the country and serve the lawfully elected president are not to the liking of certain forces," Pavel Grachev stated.

Speaking of tomorrow's State Duma hearings on the morale of the armed forces, Pavel Grachev noted that he is preparing seriously for them and will try to tell everything just as it is. "I do not intend to give in," the minister stated. In this respect he said that 90 percent of the members of the State Duma are serious and sensible people, but there are also some there of the view that "the worse things are, the better."

Military Spending for 1995 'Insufficient'

LD1711223294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1935 GMT 17 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Next year's planned military spending of 44 trillion rubles is insufficient and will seriously weaken the country's defences, ruin the armed forces and increase social tension in military units, Defence Minister Pavel Grachev has said. He was speaking in Moscow on Thursday [17 November] at a conference of airborne troop commanders.

Grachev said that favorable changes in the international situation did not mean that the problems of military threat were no longer on the agenda. In a number of countries domestic political considerations began to prevail over foreign policies. As a result there was a risk of departure from achieved agreements.

Grachev believes that this is fraught with the risk of proliferation of existing military conflicts and the emergence of new ones. "By virtue of its geopolitical and geo-strategic interests Russia cannot stay indifferent to them and will contribute to their settlement", Grachev said.

He believes that peace restored to trouble spots in the territory of the CIS was a special merit of the armed forces.

"Whatever negotiations might have been held or political decisions made, it is the armed forces that stopped bloodshed in Trans-Dniestria, Abkhazia, Ingushetia and the North and South Ossetia", Grachev said.

He said that the Russian military had all the credit for restoring peace to Tajikistan and defending that country from what he described as an onslaught of Muslim fundamentalism and the conversion of Tajikistan into an aggressive Islamic country similar to Afghanistan.

Grachev said that the airborne troops were highly mobile and most well-trained part of the armed forces. He said it was the sole arm performing combat missions in war and peace time.

Grachev said that ever since 1988 the airborne troops had remained on combat alert. He said that about 200 paratroops had been killed and more than 500 others injured over that period.

Comments on Professional Military

LD1811172094 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1626 GMT 18 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 18 November—At present the Russian Army is not ready to switch to contract service, Defense Minister Grachev told the State Duma today. Describing contract service as "an unhealthy graft onto the national consciousness, he stressed that "in Rus [prerevolutionary Russia] people always served not for pay, but for the faith, for the tsar, and the fatherland."

Nevertheless, the defense minister said, life demands that this system be introduced. He commented that state-wide concern and substantial allocations were needed in order to implement the program for the army to switch onto a professional track.

According to the most scrupulous estimates, Pavel Grachev declared, a professional army of 1,500,000 will cost Russia six or seven times more than the present one. If it is decided to have an army of fewer than 1,500,000, then, the defense Minister stressed, given Russia's geostrategic position, it will not be able to guarantee the security of the state.

Lebed Warns Armed Forces Could 'Disintegrate'

AU1811104394 Paris AFP in English 1017 GMT 18 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Moscow, Nov 18 (AFP)—Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev braced for a grilling and a barrage of resignation calls on Friday [18 November], when he faces deputies in the state Duma or lower house to meet corruption charges against his ministry.

Deputies were looking to turn up the heat on Grachev, the 46-year-old minister given the defence portfolio in May 1992, after his deputy and the former commander

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of Russian forces in Germany, Matvei Borlakov, was suspended earlier this month amid allegations of graft in the armed forces. [passage omitted]

Grachev in fact appears to have been transformed recently from being one of Yeltsin's key ministers into a scapegoat for the ills of Russia's 1.9-million-strong armed forces, still in a period of post-Soviet transition with reforms taking place in the absence of a clear strategy and adequate financing.

"If everything is left in its present state, the enormous structure (of the armed forces) will disintegrate," predicts General Alexandre Lebed.

Lebed, commander of the 14th Russian army in Moldova, is a potential candidate to replace Grachev, although the minister says he does "not plan to surrender" office. [passage omitted]

Denies Defense Minister Aspirations

MK1811100394 Moscow OBSHCHAYA GAZETA in Russian No. 46/71, 18-24 Nov 94 p 8

[Interview with General Aleksandr Lebed, 14th Army commander, by Rodion Morozov: "With Trouser Stripes and Charisma"—in Tiraspol, date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Lately General Aleksandr Lebed, 14th Army commander, has been drawing increased attention. He is being tipped as one of the most likely candidates for the post of defense minister. Some view Gen. Lebed as a future military dictator. What does he think about this himself?

[Lebed] First of all, I am accustomed to taking guidance exclusively from official sources of information. And they do not say anything about my prospective candidacy. [passage omitted]

As for dictator qualities, I would not agree with that. If I am still in this position, my actions, even if abrupt, are legitimate nonetheless. To be sure, I am an authoritarian person. Because I am a general and I have been entrusted with the heavy and terrible right to send people to their death. But throughout my career I have tried to make sure that they return from hell alive.

[Morozov] Many Russian politicians—what is important, of various persuasions and views—express the wish to work with you on one team. Does it not seem to you that they simply want to make you their mouthpiece?

[Lebed] Their banner. There is a fairly simple explanation to this. Not afraid to die of modesty, I can say: I am what is usually called a "charismatic leader."

[Morozov] For whom?

[Lebed] Potentially for anybody. You can believe me: I have never done anything to boost my popularity. I have never worked on my image. [passage omitted]

[Morozov] Aleksandr Ivanovich, you have more than just once allowed yourself to differ from your immediate superior, Defense Minister Pavel Grachev. In the final analysis, this also refers to the president. Recently you said that Colonel-General Burlakov (at the time still deputy minister), who was going to visit you on an inspection, is a "regular crook," and that you would not allow his arrival in Tiraspol. Unwittingly, people ask themselves the question: Who is standing behind Gen. Lebed back if he can allow this?

[Lebed] Let them think! I was confronted with the choice of loyalty or honor. I chose the second. Burlakov phoned me and started talking in a high-handed manner. Apparently he expected to hear excuses. But what he heard was that he is a man directly responsible for corruption and demoralization in the largest group of Russian forces. If he does not agree with this, let him take me to court. For my part I am ready to produce a division of witnesses. How should a normal, honest person react to this? Raise hell all down the line. But in this case, no—absolute calm!

Of course, it is abnormal when an army commander tells a deputy minister that he is ruining the army. One of the two is one too many for the army. Hardly a week had passed when the supreme commander dismissed comrade Burlakov. [passage omitted]

CGS Kolesnikov Briefs Media on 1994 Training

MM1811091794 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 18 Nov 94 p 1

[Report by Anatoliy Dokuchayev: "Tasks Facing Armed Forces in 1994 Mostly Carried Out, Colonel General Mikhail Kolesnikov, Chief of Russian Federation Armed Forces General Staff, Stated at 16 November Briefing"]

[FBIS Translated Text] He was briefing journalists on the conference of leading staff and, in the light of this, on the results of reform in the Armed Forces in 1994. The Army and Navy have been cut back by 385,000 men over the course of the year. The total for manpower cutbacks will be 904,900 by 1 January 1995. This figure is due to the persistent and painstaking work done by the Defense Ministry, the General Staff, and other military directorate organs in reforming the troops and naval forces. Several armies have been cut back, certain armies have been transformed into corps and certain divisions have been transformed into brigades. Colonel General Kolesnikov stressed that it had been possible to avoid wholesale cuts—"the cuts are being implemented in a planned, but quite gentle way."

Touching on the questions of operational training, the chief of the general staff noted that the plans for 1994 have been completely carried out. Fifty-eight major operational-strategic exercises and staff training exercises had been carried out, including a series of training exercises involving command and control of the Strategic Nuclear Forces, in which the Russian Federation

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president took part. Colonel General Kolesnikov announced that it is planned to hold a series of exercises linked by a common concept in the east of the country in 1995.

Combat training was partly wound down owning to the poor level of manpower acquisition for subunits and units. At the same time, the chief of the general staff said that combat training has been intensive and smooth in the Group of Russian Forces in the Transcaucasus and the 14th Army, and that exercises and live-fire exercises have been held.

Mir Space Station Completes 50,000 Orbits of Earth

LD1711202194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1155 GMT 17 Nov 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Viktor Gritsenko]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow November 17 TASS—The Russian "Mir" space station will make the 50,000th turn around the earth at 20.23 hours Moscow time (17.23 GMT) on Thursday [17 November] after nearly nine years of its space odyssey.

The "Mir" blasted off on February 20, 1986 and its weight exceeded 20 tonnes then. Later two research modules docked with the station and its total weight is close to 100 tonnes now.

Next year two more modules, the "Spektr" and the "Priroda" are to dock the "Mir" which is already equipped with unique devices for astrophysical, biological, geophysical, medical and other experiments. A U.S. space shuttle is planned to dock with the "Mir" for the first time next year.

The station boasts the longest manned flights in history. Cosmonauts Vladimir Titov and Musa Manarov spent 366 days there. At present Doctor Valeriy Polyakov is working onboard the station. He is to set a new world record by staying in space for 443 days.

15 space crews visited the station in nine years and 21 cosmonauts made 40 space walks.

Federal Assembly

Yeltsin Meets Federation Council Leadership

LD1711222094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1935 GMT 17 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Russian President Boris Yeltsin believes that the State Duma is too slow in considering draft laws on the accounting office and plenipotentiary representative for human rights, Parliamentary Speaker Ivan Rybkin told Interfax Thursday [17 November]. Commenting on the conference presided over by Yeltsin and attended by parliamentary speakers, their deputies and chairmen of parliamentary committees for legislation, Rybkin pointed out that the conversation was so "saturated in contents" that surpassed all expectations. Virtually all participants of the conference agreed that in a multi-nation state like Russia great-power patriotism and desire to drive the country out of the present crisis was an idea everybody was ready to work for, regardless of their political orientation.

All participants of the conference were unanimous that "the slow pace of legislating lead to real losses in both internal and foreign policies as well as economics." The conference concluded that a law on legislative initiative should be developed and passed to prevent endless delays in passing laws due to the consideration of alternative variants. Rybkin pointed out that the president planned to lay down his vision of the issue in his address to the Federal Assembly for 1995. He did not rule out that a single legislating program could be adopted for all branches of power.

Rybkin stressed that State Duma representatives supported holding parliamentary elections in December 1995 as envisioned by the existing Constitution. However, they must be held simultaneously with the elections to representative and executive bodies of the republics within the Russian Federation. "Otherwise, it may turn out that we will not be able to form the Federation Council and find ourselves without an upper house," he added. He also pointed out that a proposal to extend the powers of the present composition of the Federation Council was rejected by a majority of the conference's participants.

The Federation Council press service told Interfax that its speaker, Vladimir Shumeyko, said that the conference, which lasted for an hour and a half, formulated clear-cut and well-balanced proposals on defining legislation priorities. According to Shumeyko, the conference agreed with the need to coordinate priorities while preparing draft presidential decrees which cover gaps in the existing legislation. The conference decided to create a coordinating group for legislating activities presided over by State Duma First Deputy Speaker Mikhail Mityukov.

Shumeyko proposed the conference immediately consider a draft law on veterans on the eve of the 50th jubilee of the victory over fascism.

Yeltsin Initiates New Legislative Commission

LD1711173094 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1522 GMT 17 Nov 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Anna Melnikova]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 17 Nov—Coordinating legislative activities in Russia was the principal aim of a conference held this morning by Russian President Boris Yeltsin and the heads of the Federal Assembly chambers, of the Central Electoral Commission and of the Public Chamber under the president. The main result of this meeting was the conclusion that there is a need to set up a joint commission for coordinating legislative activities.

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The Russian president suggested issuing an instruction to form a commission of this kind chaired by Mikhail Mityukov, first deputy chairman of the State Duma, in the immediate future.

The participants in the meeting agreed to focus their activities on such urgent topics as the budget, taxation laws, privatization, the structure of state bodies, and the drafting of a package of laws on election.

Georgiy Satarov, an aide to the Russian president, told ITAR-TASS that "the State Duma, the Federation Council, the presidential staff, the government, the Central Electoral Commission, and the Public Chamber under the Russian president will each be represented by some 10 people in the commission."

State Duma Committee Meets on Russia-CSCE Relations

LD1711193194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1718 GMT 17 Nov 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Dmitriy Gorokhov and Yuriy Kozlov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow November 17 TASS—Russia wants the Budapest summit of leaders of member states of the Conference of Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) to be a success, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Nikolay Afanasyevskiy said today at the session of the State Duma international affairs committee. Russia has prepared for the summut, to open on December 6, a package of proposals designed to strengthen the CSCE, Afanasyevskiy said.

The Foreign Ministry official said Russia thought the summit's discussion should go in two directions. The first should sum up the CSCE's past activities and to formulate the present European situation. The second part of discussion should start generating a model of an integral Europe by 2000, obviating the issue of NATO expansion, Afanasyevskiy said.

Russia's stance is that the CSCE requires transformation into a strong regional organisation with its own rules. This would be facilitated by setting up a kind of a European security council, which would make decision-making more rapid, the deputy foreign minister continued. Russia also makes several propositions to improve the CSCE's efficiency in peacekeeping, tending to national minority issues and promoting economic cooperation.

Afanasyevskiy spoke of the CSCE parliamentary assembly as a major institution which should act as a generator of ideas to strengthen the CSCE. He added that the State Duma international affairs committee could contribute to Russia's concept of future Europe. It is important that the Russian approach avoid both "reckless Westernism" and "offended Easternism," Afanasyevskiy said.

Chairman of the international affairs committee Vladimir Lukin said the European continent's processes had a complicated progress, and attempts were made to isolate Russia, in particular to use east and central Europe to enlarge NATO. Russia's response to NATO's expansion would be very rigorous, Lukin said. European security must be built on mutual guarantees and strategic agreement between nuclear powers, he said.

The CSCE's structures need be strengthened, giving priority to specific issues, the committe chairman continued. Contact groups similar to that on the Bosnia crisis might be set up to handle major problems.

The Duma international affairs committee plans to hold a special session with participation of Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev on results on the Budapest summut.

Official Suggests Grachev Make Decision To Resign

LD1711133494 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1220 GMT 17 Nov 94

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Pavel Kuznetsov]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 17 Nov– Members of the Committee for Defense of the State Duma have recommended that the lower house of parliament should not raise the issue of the Russian defense minister's suitability for his post after Pavel Grachev speaks at tomorrow's plenary session of the chamber. Committee Chairman Sergey Yushenkov told journalists that this decision was made at today's session of the committee.

He said that, after a keen debate, members of the committee concluded that the issue of Grachev's suitability for his post should be raised only after the state of affairs in the Armed Forces had been comprehensively studied. It has thus been decided to recommend to the Russian president that he set up a state commission (to include Federal Assembly deputies) to study in detail the Russian Army's present situation.

Yushenkov noted that parliamentary hearings on the results of this commission's activity could be held in January next year, with the subsequent drafting of recommendations concerning the present defense minister.

Yushenkov stressed that the issue of appointing the defense minister was not within the competence of the State Duma, but rather is decided by the country's president. In his view, Boris Yeltsin should not dismiss Grachev; rather, the defense minister should make the decision to resign himself. It will be better for everyone if Grachev makes this decision, Yushenkov said.

He said that he would most likely speak at today's meeting between Boris Yeltsin and the chairman of the parliamentary committees, though not on the issue of the defense minister, because "there are currently many more important problems."

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Duma CIS Committee Confident in Chairman Zatulin

LD1711225094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1935 GMT 17 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] On Thursday [17 November] the majority of the members of the State Duma committee on CIS and contacts with compatriots expressed their confidence in the committee's chairman Konstantin Zatulin, press secretary of the committee Natalya Konstantinova reported to Interfax. Zatulin himself raised the issue on confidence due to the fact that this week the Party of Russian Unity and Concord faction has expelled him from the party for adherence to the policy contradicting to the party's position.

According to Konstantinova, at its Thursday sitting the committee also decided to recommend to the State Duma to abstain from adopting the federal 1995 budget "because part of the draft related to Russia's state credits to CIS countries and financing of inter-state coordination bodies of the Commonwealth's countries has not been property worked out." In addition, the committee believes that those articles of the draft budget which provide for expenditures for accommodation of refugees and forced settlers from the former Soviet republics are only half finished.

The committee recommended to the State Duma to ratify Russia's and Belarus' intergovernmental agreement "On Status of Military Formations of the Russian Federation Assigned to Strategic Forces and Temporarily Stationed on the Belarussian Territory." Simultaneously the committee recommended to the State Duma to postpone ratification of another Russian-Belarusian document—an intergovernmental agreement "On Principles of Withdrawal of the Russian Military Formations from the Composition of Strategic Forces which are Temporarily Stationed on the Territory of the Republic of Belarus." It was decided to ask for an additional information about the situation in accommodation of military units destined to withdrawal on the Russian territory from Russia's Defense Ministry and Foreign Ministry.

Joint Russo-Ukrainian Black Sea Fleet Proposed

MM1711120894 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 17 Nov 94 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Fleets of the Two Countries, Unite!"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Speaking at yesterday's parliamentary hearings on Russo-Ukrainian relations, Senator Nikolay Gonchar, chairman of the Russian Federation Council Committee for the Budget, proposed his own way of resolving the issue of dividing up the Black Sea Fleet. He thinks that all the talks on dividing up the fleet have become deadlocked. A divided fleet, no matter what the ratio, is a dead fleet. Without escort ships the Moscow cruiser is just a lump of metal.

Gonchar suggested creating a united Russo-Ukrainian Black Sea Fleet. Russia and Ukraine have common interests in the Black Sea.

Duma Criticizes U.S. Policy, Envoy to Ukraine

MK1711140094 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 17 Nov 94 p 4

[Report by Marina Perevozkina: "The Zatulin Committee Exposes American Spies"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In the course of Duma hearings on Russian-Ukrainian relations, which ended late 15 November, the deputies expressed their dissatisfaction with the performance by the Russian Federation Foreign Affairs Ministry regarding Kiev. Many new facts were revealed about U.S. special services' subversive activities in Crimea.

"The Russia-Ukraine dialogue intensified considerably after Leonid Kuchma was elected Ukraine president," Sergey Krylov, Russian Federation deputy foreign minister, said. According to Krylov, this has made possible a concrete discussion of the Russian president's official visit to Kiev, in the course of which a whole set of documents is to be signed, while the treaty on friendship, cooperation, and partnership with Ukraine is effectively ready for signing. True, Krylov admitted, some major issues have not been resolved yet: the Black Sea Fleet, Ukraine's debts, and its accession to the nonproliferation treaty.

However, Konstantin Zatulin, chairman of the Duma CIS Affairs Committee, subjected the Foreign Ministry to criticism. He doubted the "successful preparation" of the treaty, maintaining that the Russian side has "very curtailed powers" at the negotiations. [passage omitted]

Zatulin drew attention to heightened activity by U.S. diplomacy in Ukraine. He was supported by two Crimean politicians: Admiral Eduard Baltin, commander of the Black Sea Fleet; and Yevgeniy Saburov, former vice premier. Baltin spoke about his meeting with U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine Miller, "a highly qualified professional intelligence man" whose advice, according to the admiral, the Ukraine president is following. Saburov, for his part, directly accused the United States of fomenting the conflict between the executive and representative powers in Crimea. [passage omitted]

Baltic Assembly Resolution Termed 'Provocative'

LD1811115194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1134 GMT 18 Nov 94

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Pavel Kuznetsov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow November 18 TASS—The Russian State Duma today assessed the Baltic

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Assembly's resolution on the demilitarisation of Kaliningrad region as "provocative". The Council of the Federation had lashed out at this resolution on Thursday [17 November].

The demilitarisation of this area, says the statement adopted by the lower house of the Russian parliament, "is Russia's domestic affair and will be effected in keeping with Russian national interests and with due account of the situation in Europe". "It is short of indecency to tell us from 'roundtables' how we should act in such matters," the statement says.

"As to the idea of respectfully dealing with toponyms, which are legacies of European culture, it should be extended to the territory of the Baltic states, too. This refers particularly to the restoration of ancient Russian names," the document adds.

"We would like the Baltic parliaments to express their attitude to the resolution of the Baltic Assembly and to assess in what measure it corresponds to the commitments assumed by these states under their treaties with Russia, which are known to envisage respect for sovereignty and noninterference in domestic affairs," the statement stresses.

The demarche of the two houses of the Russian parliament, and the earlier released statement of the Russian Foreign Ministry, were prompted by the fact that representatives of the parliaments of three Baltic states had adopted on November 13 a resolution, which actually urges Western Europe to bring pressure to bear on Russia in order to make it withdraw all the Russian troops from Kaliningrad region.

Duma Committee Opposes 1995 Budget Proposal

LD1711115594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1112 GMT 17 Nov 94

[By BUSINESS-TASS]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow November 17 TASS—The Russian State Duma committee for an economic policy is opposing the adoption of a budget for 1995 in its present form.

Today the committee recommended parliamentarians not to adopt the draft law "On the federal budget for 1995" proposed by the government at the first reading.

An inference on the draft of the federal budget distributed among deputies today, says the committee proposed to set up a conciliation commission consisting of representatives of the State Duma and the government of the Russian Federation, and charge it to prepare a forecast of the social and economic development of the country for 1995.

The committee considers that the commission should work out coordinated purposive milestones in an economic policy of the state and a program for their realization in accordance with provisions of the Russian president's message to the federal assembly "On the strengthening of the Russian state (the main directions of internal and foreign policies)".

Amendments Adopted to Criminal Code

LD1711225594

[FBIS Editorial Report] Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian at 1439 GMT on 17 Nov 94 carries a 300-word Moscow-datelined report on the the Russian Federation Council approving on 17 November a series of amendments and additions to the Criminal Code of Russia, including a liability for breaking the confidentiality of medical records. "A medical worker may now face a prison term of up to two years or a fine of up to 50 times the minimum wage for violating the confidentiality of medical records."

The TASS report adds that "the deputies of the Federation Council also discussed several other bills already approved by the State Duma. The draft law 'on detaining in custody individuals suspected of or charged with committing a crime' was rejected on the grounds that some of its points failed to conform to the Russian Constitution and the international rules for treating detainees, approved by the United Nations."

Federation Council Unlikely To Adopt AIDS Law

LD1811094294 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0835 GMT 18 Nov 94

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Lyudmila Yermakova]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 18 Nov—The AIDS law, passed by the Duma on 11 November, is unlikely to be endorsed by the Federation Council, an ITAR-TASS correspondent was told by Vladimir Shumeyko, chairman of the upper chamber of the Russian Parliament.

Experts and deputies have calculated that about 15 billion rubles would be needed to implement the measures for all-round checkups to be done on certain categories of the population, and this sum is unaccounted for in the draft budget for the next year.

The Federation Council deputies think that laws that cannot be implemented should not be adopted. Apart from this, a number of provisions regarding obligatory medical checkups violate human rights and run counter to international norms.

Currently, 830 people have been found HIV positive in Russia and the number of AIDS patients is 144.

Constitutional Court Appointment Stalemates Continue

MM1711141694 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 17 Nov 94 p 1

[Report by Petr Karapetyan: "The Competition To Fill the Constitutional Court Vacancies Has Clearly Dragged On"]

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[FBIS Translated Text] On 16 November the Federation Council turned down the candidacies of Justice Minister Yuriy Kalmykov and of Raif Biktagirov, IZVESTIYA TATARSTANA's commentator on questions of law, for the vacant posts of Russian Federation Constitutional Court judges. The deputies were not inspired even by Vladimir Shumeyko's farewell speech, so to speak, before the vote: "The Federation Council will display wisdom if a Cherkess and a Tatar join the Constitutional Court." Wisdom was not displayed. According to the voting results, Yuriy Kalmykov received 65 votes, while Raif Biktagirov got even fewer—59.

So, the competition, so to speak, to fill the vacancies on the Constitutional Court has clearly dragged on, and I am afraid that a matter of state importance has been turned into a matter of principle, when the state power proposes the very same candidacies session after session, while the representative power in the guise of the Federation Council turns them down equally consistently. Deputy Nikolay Gonchar declared that he views the nomination of candidates who are rejected as a means of neutralizing the Constitutional Court. For in our country no way will everyone choose even the general prosecutor....

In my view the deputies' general mood was expressed by Aleksandr Surikov, who declared that "nobody consults the regions, and we are offered a one-way game." Of the five candidates submitted to fill the vacancies on the Constitutional Court, just one—Raif Biktagirov—represents a region of Russia, while the rest are Muscovites. To all appearances, the intractability of the majority of Federation Council deputies was a kind of protest not only against such a principle of forming the Constitutional Court but also against the state power's nominating session after session candidates who have already been "rejected" once.

Fuel, Energy Crisis in North Debated

LD1711150594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1423 GMT 17 Nov 94

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Lyidmila Yemakova]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow November 17 TASS—A two-hour debate held in the Federation Council on Thursday [17 November] in connection with critical fuel shortages in the north of Russia has not been crowned with adopting a decree prepared in advance. The problem of energy carriers proved quite complex, bearing not only on the question of fuel mining, but also on non-payment, drawbacks in the tax policy, depreciated prices and too large exports, the flow of foreign currency abroad and the halting of further development of deposits and prospecting for fuel. This was shown by remarks of the minister of fuel and power and speeches of deputies from northern districts.

The committees for the affairs of the north, the economic reform and the budget believe that the preparation for the autumn-winter period, which has already set in, is in a critical situation. Less than ten million tonnes of coal was supplied over ten months while 13 odd million tonnes of coal is needed. The output of oil and oil products is just over four million with the annual volume of 6.6 million tonnes. Three odd million tonnes of oil and oil products was shipped to districts where the navigation period is short (the annual volume is 4.5 million).

Nevertheless, Yuriy Shafranik, the minister of fuel and energy and a member of the Federation Council, said on Wednesday that the problem, essentially, is not the lowering of the output, but financial difficulties, specifically, non-payment. He said Russia has sufficient resources of fuel and energy (estimated and prospected), if investment is made. The production of primary fuel and energy sources dropped by only six to seven per cent as compared with the corresponding period last year. "Even that fall-off could have been prevented," Shafranik said.

It was noted at the meeting that by the beginning of October, enterprises producing oil products received 800 billion roubles out of the 4,000 billion allocated by the administration for the northern territories to stock products for the north and other areas with extreme conditions.

Deputies decided to draft and adopt at the evening meeting on Thursday a brief resolution on the ways out of the critical situation in the northern region. A detailed decree on state regulation in the fuel and energy industry will be drafted, after studying all materials, for the next meeting of the federation council. Legislators believe this should be done before adopting the budget for 1995.

"The problem of extraction and trasportation of energy carriers and supply with them cannot be resolved without measures of state protectionism. Work on this problem should be conducted jointly with the government," said Vladimir Shumeyko, speaker of the Federation Council.

Lower Inflation Rate Forecast

LD1711123194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1105 GMT 17 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Conditions are ripe in Russia for a new stage of reform and the finances situation is ready for investment in the economy, the Economics Minister Evgeniy Yasin said at the State Duma hearings on the draft of the 1995 federal budget Thursday [17 November].

According to Yasin, the production decline in Russia has almost reached "bottom", savings have swelled to the point that they can already be invested. But the key issue is whether they will be put into the Russian economy or used for "financial speculations" due to high inflation and investment risk.

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Yasin underlined the Russian government's intention to focus in 1995 on macro-economic stabilization to stimulate highly-effective investment.

He predicted that production decline in 1995 will be 10-12 percent a month, and that government would bring inflation down to 1-1.5 percent a month by the middle of the year.

He further predicts that annual price growth will be 70 percent, compared with the 270-280 percent growth expected in 1994.

Yasin also voiced his intention to press for tax cuts for industries in 1995.

Shafranik on Energy Compensation for Population

LD1711155994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1431 GMT 17 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Mintopenergo, Russia's fuel and energy ministry, suggests that instead of an earlier planned system of differentiated tariffs, a mechanism should be devised to compensate the population for fuel and energy in 1995. Such a mechanism is under government scrutiny, Mintopenergo chief Yuriy Shafranik announced in the Federation Council Thursday [17 November].

Addressing the Council members on Wednesday, he reemphasized that mutual insolvency remains a chief problem in Russia's fuel and energy complex (according to him, of the 60 trillion rubles of unpaid bills, more than half are due to be paid to the fuel and energy complex).

Meanwhile, a Council deputy Pavel Balakshin, the Archangelsk region's governor, suggested that fuel prices (above all the price of black oil) and their transportation tariffs be kept unchanged in Russia for some time. He also proposed that no black oil be exported until Russia's Arctic regions get enough petrol product for winter.

According to Balakshin, Russia sold more than 55 percent of its extracted oil in 1994 (244 million tonnes were turned out over ten months this year), including 90 percent of the oil refineries output.

Observers note that Mintopenergo has lately come under fire from many Russian governors for fuel shortages in the country. Moscow's Mayor Yuriy Luzhkov holds Shafrannik directly responsible for his failure to supply the capital with gasoline, which grew in price again last week.

Regional Affairs

Ministry Denies Russia Involved in Chechnya

LD1711173694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1640 GMT 17 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A column of over 30 tanks broke from Mozdok, Northern Ossetia, into Chechen areas under opposition control despite resistance put up by government troops near the village of Bratskoye, northwest of Groznyy. Officials in the Chechen military headquarters told Interfax that two tanks had been knocked out in a four-hour battle.

The officials said that numerous tanks in the column had been manned by Russian crews.

Some of the tanks are now said by Groznyy officials to stay in the village of Znamenskoye where the opposition Provisional Council is headquartered and the others in Tolstoy-Yurt, where the "peace mission" of Ruslan Khasbulatov, former speaker of the Russian parliament, is located.

The Chechen government appealed to the world community saying that a new Russian-Caucasian war had begun and placing the responsibility for this on the Russian political leaders and the leaders of the north Caucasian republics "who encouraged the start of a Caucasian war by their criminal silence."

The Russian Defense Ministry has categorically dismissed Groznyy's statements on its armed intervention in Chechnya.

A spokesman for the ministry's information and press department told Interfax Thursday that all tanks of the North Caucasian military district remained "at their permanent positions." He described as unfounded Chechen reports that the tanks which clashed with government troops near the village Bratskoye had Russian crews.

Chechen Leadership Urges Clinton To Stop Caucasus War

LD1711174694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1640 GMT 17 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A session of the Chechen cabinet in Groznyy Thursday [17 November] discussed the situation "stemming from the Russian aggression", Interfax was informed by the office of President Dzokhar Dudayev.

According to a presidential aide, the government decided to send a special message to the U.S. President Bill Clinton urging him to bend every diplomatic effort to stop the beginning of a large-scale war in the Caucasus that would affect the interests of many countries, including NATO members.

Chechen Leader Sends Reinforcements to Bratskoye

LD1711221794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1935 GMT 17 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A task force was transferred to Bratskoye, north-west Chechnya, to strengthen the defences of government troops attacked Thursday by an armored column coming from Mozdok (North Ossetia)

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to join the opposition, the Chechen State Security Department informed Interfax. The main strike force of the regime of Dzhokhar Dudayev, the Shali tank regiment, was alerted.

According to the department, two tanks from the column were destroyed and their crews burned inside in stubborn fighting. Two more were damaged and taken back to Mozdok. Over 30 managed to break through to the territory controlled by the opposition. The department claims most of the tanks have Russian crews.

According to Groznyy, one person was killed and three wounded on the side of the government in the fighting.

A spokesman for the Chechen chief staff told Interfax another breakthrough attempt by armored vehicles is expected in the near future. In this context posts have been reinforced in the area of Bratskoye from the side of Znamenskoye where the headquarters of the opposition Provisional Council are located as well as from the side of Tolstoy-Yurt where Ruslan Khasbulatov's peacemaking group is staying.

Government Stronghold Near Groznyy Destroyed

LD1811115894 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1055 GMT 18 Nov 94

[By ITAR-TASS]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 18 Nov—Armored vehicles of the Provisional Council, opposed to Dzhokhar Dudayev, this morning destroyed a stronghold of the government troops in the village of Dolinskiy, 15 km away from Groznyy.

Zaindi Choltayev, head of the Provisional Council administration, told ITAR-TASS that the operation was carried out during the armored vehicles' passage from the Znamenskoye settlement to the town of Urus-Martan, currently controlled by the opposition.

There was another clash between the Provisional Council's forces and government troops this morning, near the village of Alkhan-Yurt in the Urus-Martan area. According to an opposition spokesman, an ambush by Dudayev's formations was destroyed and two tanks and two armored personnel carriers were captured. There are no losses among the Provisional Council's troops and no reports received as yet on losses among Dudayev's troops.

North Ossetia Denies Involvement in Chechen Fighting

LD1811101094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0941 GMT 18 Nov 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Shanayev]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Vladikavkaz November 18 TASS—North Ossetia, a Russian Caucasian republic bordering on Chechnya, rejected reports that it is involved in fighting against Chechen Government troops. "North Ossetia strictly abides by the principle of non-interference" in the Chechen conflict, Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic Georgiy Dzhigkayev told TASS on Friday [18 November].

He added that the movements of opposition Chechen troops may be mistaken for actions launched from North Ossetia as the Nadterechnyy region of Chechnya, which is the headquarters of the opposition Provisional Council, borders on the Mozdok region of North Ossetia.

Dzhikgayev stressed that the leadership of North Ossetia had several times tried to mediate a peaceful settlement in the neighbouring republic and is still convinced that the conflict cannot be resolved by force.

Edicts Not Fulfilled in N. Ossetia, Ingshetia

LD1711203994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1904 GMT 17 Nov 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Mikhail Shevtsov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow November 17 TASS—Officials in the state of emergency zone in North Ossetia and Ingushetia just pretend implementing the decrees by the Russian president. This is true, in particular, about the return of Ingush refugees to the Prigorodnyy district, Ingush President Ruslan Aushev told a news conference at the Slavyanskaya hotel on Thursday [17 November].

According to Aushev, out of the 658 families expected to come back to the district as of today, only 31 families actually moved in and only 163 houses for refugees were brought there.

Speaking about the need to extend the state of emergency rule, the Ingush president said "the state of emergency zone on the territory of North Ossetia and Ingushetia has exhausted itself". The rule enforced by the temporary administration should continue in the Prigorodnyy district only.

The crime situation in Ingushetia itself is the most stable as compared with the other regions of Russia, Aushev noted.

The Ingush president is not satisfied with the progress of work to reconstruct Ingush housing in the Prigorodnyy district. According to his information, only 16 houses were being built there as of November 15. He believes the work should be done by neutral construction teams from neighbouring republics rather than by Ossetian workers, because some Ossetians and Ingushis still treat each other with animosity.

Assessing the ethnic policy pursued by the central authorities in the northern Caucasus, Aushev said there had never been any ethnic policy at all. With this in view, he welcomed the decision to remove Sergey Shakhray from supervising the Chechen issue. So far, Russia's

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policy on Chechnya and the northern Caucasus has resulted in hundreds of killed and wounded people, Aushev stressed.

Vladivostok Central Press Not Printed; Journalists Protest

MM1711113094 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 17 Nov 94 p 1

[POSTFACTUM report: "Vladivostok Journalists Protest Against Pressure on Central Press"]

[FBIS Translated Text] POSTFACTUM has reported from Vladivostok that central press correspondents working in Maritime Kray issued a statement on 15 November to the Russian President's judicial chamber for information disputes and the Russian Federation Committee for the Press in connection with the fact that the printing of the local issues of all the central newspapers has been suspended at the height of the subscription campaign.

The leadership of the Dalpress publishing complex, which prints the Far East versions of central newspapers under contract with their editorial offices, explained that the suspension of the print run was due to the lack of offset plates.

According to the journalists' information, however, the refusal to print for technical reasons does not apply to local publications loyal to the Maritime Kray administration or to those founded by Dalpress itself.

The authors of the statement consider the present situation an encroachment on free speech and a deliberate action intended to deprive the population of the opportunity of obtaining information from independent sources.

Bomb Explodes in Udmurtia Parliament's Garage

LD1711180494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1640 GMT 17 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] An explosion took place at 9:30 Thursday [17 November] in Izhevsk in the garage of the Udmurtian parliament, according to well-informed sources.

The bomb exploded in the private car of Mikhail Mikryukov, the driver of the chief of the parliament's staff. The car owner received numerous wounds and was taken to hospital in serious condition.

His boss Viktor Russkikh was in his office at the time of the blast and remained unharmed.

An investigation has been launched.

CPRF's Zyuganov Visits Chuvashia, Mordvinia

MM1811092094 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 15 Nov 94 p 2

[Report by Aleksandr Ofitserov: "Ranks of Comrades-in-Arms Growing"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gennadiy Zyuganov, leader of the Communist Party of the Russian Federation [CPRF] and leader of the CPRF faction in the State Duma, ended his trip to Chuvashia on Sunday 13 November, and arrived in Mordvinia yesterday. There were meetings with the electorate in rayon centers and rural clubs, a great many questions, halls full to overflowing, applause.

As local communists noted: The main thing that is worrying them today is to conduct, in a clear and organized way, the elections to the republic's State Assembly and the representative organs of local self-government, scheduled for the end of November in Mordvinia.

Gennadiy Zyuganov's addresses to the public in Saransk Cultural Center and the workers at Ruzayevskaya Sewing and Knitwear Factory showed clearly that support for the constructive proposals being made by the present Communists on leading the Russian economy out of the crisis and restoring the country's social and cultural life is meeting with a good response, great understanding, and support among the republic's population.

In his addresses, Gennadiy Andreyevich repeatedly stressed that it has specifically been the strong influence of communist ideas in Chuvashia and Mordvinia that has prevented all kinds of interethnic conflicts from being provoked here.

Tatarstan President Rejects Party-Based Elections

MK1711105094 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 17 Nov 94 p 3

[Report by Viktor Smirnov: "The President Consulted the Parties and Had It His Own Way"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The approach of parliamentary elections in Tataria [Tatarstan] is prompting local political leaders toward intensive action. The past few days were marked by two political battles at the same time: The Supreme Court of Tataria agreed with the cancellation of the law adopted by the Tatar Kurultay on creating the National Assembly, while the "roundtable" of political parties persuaded President Mintimer Shaymiyev to take the parties' opinion into account in organizing future elections. Yesterday a press conference was held in Kazan whose participants revealed some details of their meeting with the president.

The roundtable, which unites representatives of nearly all parties and movements of Tataria, was created this fall to make known to the republic leadership the disagreement of political parties with the concept for the reform of state power bodies proposed from above. In particular the parties insist that parliamentary elections next March be held both on territorial and party tickets while local heads of administration be elected, not appointed by the president.

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Members of the roundtable, however, failed to convince Mintimer Shaymiyev. Categorically rejecting the idea of elections on party tickets, the president promised to appoint as heads of administration those who get the "mandate of people's trust." Shaymiyev also allowed parties to participate in electoral commissions and agreed to lower the turnout threshold from 50 percent to 25 percent. Nonetheless the parties were content with the meeting because the president promised to confer with them also in the future and to create for this purpose a public-political chamber under the president. [passage omitted]

Tyumen Governor Warns of Slump in Oil Extraction

LD1711120394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1105 GMT 17 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tyumen Region Governor Leonid Roketskiy warned Federation Council deputies today against relying too much on Tyumen oil.

Speaking in the upper house of parliament on the issue of fuel sufficiency in Russian regions, he reported that while a few years ago the Tyumen Region produced 400 million tonnes of oil a year, in 1993 oil extraction dropped to 200 million tonnes. Next year, by his forecast, the output will fall by yet another 30 million tonnes. For this reason, Roketskiy said, we should be ready to "buy oil in South Africa or elsewhere."

Explaining the reasons behind the precipitous fall in oil extraction, he declared, "We don't need any oil because in no way does it benefit the region's economy."

He accused the federal authorities of "robbing the region" and then paying miserable salaries to teachers and other state employees.

Roketskiy reported that the Tyumen Region accounts for 70 percent of Russian oil extraction and suggested creating an offshore zone in the region to attract more investment into the oil and gas industry.

Magadan Miners To Mine 30 Tonnes of Gold in 95

OW1811060094 Magadan Radio Magadan in Russian 0800 GMT 15 Nov 94

[From the "Oblast News"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The quota for mining precious metals announced by Magadan Oblast miners has become known—30 tonnes of gold and 160 tonnes of silver. This is more than 20 percent of all the precious metal mined in Russia. The current pan-washing season has virtually ended and it can be said with a fair degree of accuracy that 27.5 tonnes of gold will be recovered this year plus or minus some several dozen kilograms. This is nearly three tonnes less than last year.

The greatest decrease was recorded by the Severovostokzoloto [Northeast Gold] Association. As of the end of October, the annual program of the oblast's main gold mining organization had been fulfilled by 83.5 percent. Kolyma Enterprises of Severovostokzoloto have a shortfall of some two tonnes while Chukotka enterprises have a shortfall of 700 kilograms. This year, 15 gold mining organizations left the Severovostokzoloto Association and they are supplying metal directly to refining plants in accordance with independent agreements.

Presently, there are some two dozen independent pan-washing teams in the oblast recovering from 50 kilograms of gold or more. Overall they recovered more than four and a half tonnes of the metal. The joint stock associations established during 1992 and 1993—the Magadan Gold and Silver Company, Geozoloto, Geometall, Geotsentr, and Evensk—recovered more than three tonnes. The first metal has been mined at the Vetrinskoye deposit and by the end of the year the state will receive at least 150 kilograms from this site.

Tatar MVD Smashes Gang Trafficking Foreign-Made Weapons

MM1711145594 Moscow TRUD in Russian 16 Nov 94 p 1

[Report by Yevgeniy Ukhov: "Gun Trade"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Kazan—Since its declaration of sovereignty, Tatarstan has increased its international activity—political and economic—appreciably. However, it is not only investments and consumer goods which have passed through this window on Europe but also...weapons.

The Tatarstan KGB together with the MVD [Ministry of Internal Affairs] Organized Crime Directorate have unearthed a group of Kazan residents who for a long time had been trafficking in foreign-made weapons. During the operation to smash the gang of "dealers in death" they discovered around three dozen suppliers of foreign guns and 10 Kazan inhabitants who were selling them to illegal groups. Seven members of those groups have been arrested and a dozen "Walther" revolvers with silencers and a substantial quantity of ammunition have been confiscated from them. Information on a number of middlemen (Polish citizens) who obtained the weapons in Germany has been passed to Interpol.

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International Affairs

Politicians Comment on NPT Ratification

LD1711203294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1724 GMT 17 Nov 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature: compiled by Nikolay Zherebtsov and Andrey Petrovskiy; edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] President Kuchma's firm position on the issue of Ukraine's nuclear-free status and his staff played a major role in securing parliament's decision that Ukraine should join the nuclear arms non-proliferation treaty [NPT], the leader of the agrarian faction, chairman of Ukraine's Peasant Party Serhiy Dovgan has said. IF [INTERFAX] Note: Leonid Kuchma spoke in parliament before the voting in parliament on the bill of Ukraine's membership of the non-proliferation treaty to explain arguments in favor of such a step. The adopted document contains a number of considerable reservations, in the first place, guarantees of Ukraine's security on the part of nuclear powers, as well as the interpretation of the ownership of nuclear warheads found in Ukrainian territory. Ukraine declares itself the owner of nuclear arms, inherited from the former USSR. The documents on Ukraine's entry in the nuclear arms non-proliferation treaty will be presented to the depository states only after Ukraine and the depository states have signed the appropriate legal documents on Ukraine's security guarantees.

The chairman of the Ukrainian parliament's foreign affairs and CIS relations committee, Boris Oleinik, has said that by joining the nuclear non-proliferation treaty Ukraine proved to the world community that it consistently honored its commitments and was a reliable partner.

Oleinik told newsmen that "in the world we are moving to only those who are strong enjoy respect". However, Oleinik said that Ukraine depended on its previous pledges to go nuclear-free. "We were forced to take into account the real situation", he said.

"I predicted that we would join the nuclear non-proliferation treaty, but I have never thought we would do so with such a success", the chairman of the parliamentary committee on defence and national security Vladimir Mukhin has said. He is satisfied that the status of nuclear warheads after the adoption of the law remained Ukrainian, which made it possible for Ukraine to use nuclear materials, once the missiles were taken apart, as fuel and make use of the precious metals contained in the warheads.

The leader of the radical nationalist organization UNA-UNSO, people's deputy Oleg Vitovich has said: "We have signed a death sentence to the future of Ukrainian statehood and condemned ourselves to the role of a banana republic with a coconut president".

The chairman of the parliamentary commission for the struggle against organized crime and corruption, Grigory Omelchenko, has said that "what has happened today is not a sensation but a normal nuclear disarmament process".

The Russian authorities welcomed Ukraine's decision to join the treaty. Russia's deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Krylov has said in an interview that Kiev's decision fostered the nuclear arms non- proliferation regime. This is a very positive step crucial to fostering security and stability in Europe", he said.

Krylov said he was certain that Ukraine's decision to join the non-proliferation treaty would have favorable effects on the climate of and progress in negotiations with Russia. "This is a good sign for more negotiations in Moscow", Krylov said.

On Thursday afternoon there was another round of bilateral talks behind closed doors. The Russian delegation is led by first Vice- Premier Oleg Soskovets, and the Ukrainian one, by first Vice-Premier Yevheniy Marchuk. They discussed the conclusion of a future large-scale treaty of friendship and cooperation and problems of the Black Sea Fleet. More details will be available from the next edition of Presidential Bulletin.

France Guarantees Republic's Security

LD1711220194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2124 GMT 17 Nov 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Nikita Yermakov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Paris November 17 TASS—France unilaterally commits to guarantee Ukraine's security when it joins the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty as a non-nuclear state, French Foreign Ministry spokesman Richard Duquet told a briefing on Thursday.

"The text of the guarantees will be made public at the moment, when three nuclear powers, which are depositaries of this treaty, provide Ukraine with similar guarantees," he emphasised, hinting at Great Britain, Russia and the United States.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman expressed satisfaction with the decision made by the Ukrainian parliamentarians to ratify the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. According to France, this is an important step which will lead Ukraine to join the treaty as a state not possessing nuclear weapons. France attaches intent attention to this objective, he added.

German General on Bilateral Military Cooperation

LD1711123094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1105 GMT 17 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Ukraine significantly contributes to European security, General Klaus Naumann,

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Bundeswehr's inspector general, said at a meeting with Anatoliy Lopata, chief of Ukraine's General Staff in Kiev on November 16.

Naumann added that an independent Ukraine and its security were of great importance for Germany's security.

Officials in the Ukrainian Defense Ministry told Interfax-Ukraine that the two sides had approved proposals on expansion of bilateral military cooperation, exchanged views on military matters, including military training, and discussed exchange of army cadets.

Special attention was given to the upcoming joint staff exercise in the framework of the UN peacekeeping training program.

The top military officers agreed that the joint activities would develop in three stages: Exchanges of working groups at the level of division and brigade headquarters; the staff exercise proper; and involvement of units, such as an aeromobile or mountain rifle company, in the exercise.

Naumann will visit the 43d Rocketry Army in Pervomaisk and the frigate Lutsk.

Tatarstan Group Focuses on Oil Sales, Processing

AU1711130494 Kiev MOLOD UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 15 Nov 94 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Tatarstan Oil Without Moscow's Involvement"]

[FBIS Translated Text] **Negotiations between a Tatarstan delegation (Tatarstan is a member of the Russian Federation) and the Ukrainian Government on creating a Ukrainian-Tatarstan transnational financial and industrial group have been held at the Economics Ministry. The Tatarstan delegation was headed by Vice Prime Minister Muratov and the Ukrainian Government was represented by Deputy Minister of Economics Leonid Minin.**

Asked about the reason for creating the transnational corporation, Minin explained that the main thing was to restore the technological line that existed at the time of the USSR. It will concentrate, within a single agency and without unnecessary mediation on the part of Moscow, on the exploration, prospecting, extraction, transportation, processing, and sale of oil and petroleum products, but, this time, on principles that will be mutually advantageous for Tatarstan and Ukraine.

Tatarstan wants to have stable markets for its oil in Ukraine and be able to resolve problems of deliveries of those goods, which have traditionally been manufactured in Ukraine and supplied to Tatarstan. These are mainly agricultural products: butter, wheat, sugar, and also some products of machine building. Tatarstan still has to purchase oil prospecting equipment for hard currency from third countries.

Ukraine's objective is to increase the utilized capacity of the Kremenchuk Oil Refinery and thereby reduce the prime cost of oil processing. It also wants to ensure stable deliveries of oil and petroleum products from Tatarstan. The founders of the transnational group plan that, over the next year, almost 8 million metric tons of Tatarstan oil will be exported to Ukraine.

Yet another thing. The transnational group will be registered in Ukraine, and its activity will largely be supported by the government. Consequently, the group will not present any threat to Ukrainian interests. On the contrary, it will promote Ukraine's integration within the post-Soviet economic area on the civilized principles of mutually advantageous cooperation.

National Affairs

Kuchma Names New Military Aide

LD1611230194 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1756 GMT 16 Nov 94

[By UKRINFORM-TASS correspondent]

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev, 16 Nov—By order of Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma, Major General Vadim Grechaninov has been appointed aide to the head of state on military issues. The press service of the republic's Defense Ministry reported this today.

Up until now, General Grechaninov held the post of aide to the defense minister on issues of military policy.

Vydrin Views 'Complex' Treaty Issues, Patriotism

WS1811122494 Kiev KIYEVSKIYE VEDOMOSTI in Russian 15 Nov 94 p 3

[Interview with Dmytro Vydrin, foreign policy adviser to the Ukrainian president, by Natalya Ishchenko: "Dmytro Vydrin: Regarding Issues of Nuclear Disarmament, Haggling Is Inappropriate"—first paragraph is KIYEVSKIYE VEDOMOSTI introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Ukrainian Supreme Council again is coming back to the nuclear nonproliferation issue. The parliamentary commissions are heatedly debating it, and the conclusions of those debates are very often mutually exclusive. Today, our newspaper asked Dmytro Vydrin, foreign policy adviser to the Ukrainian president, to present his opinion on this issue. Dmytro Vydrin said:

"In my opinion, several factors determined that Ukraine's joining the nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty is so complex and delayed the process. The main factor, I believe, is lack of competence of many deputies in this sphere, who, driven by the understandably patriotic desire to gain the biggest possible compensation for the country for such a decision, fail to understand how dangerous implications of impeding this process can be. Due to the parliament's refusal to approve Ukraine's

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joining the Nonproliferation Treaty, Ukraine has been put on certain international lists as a potentially dangerous country. This inflicts colossal damage on our international image. Who gets credits, guarantees, and investments? Countries with, as they say, a good reputation. This is why by haggling over bigger compensation or benefits promised by the United States to countries which signed the treaty, we are losing even more, including the 'good political attitude' toward ourselves, which is usually followed by a 'good economic attitude.' Let me emphasize that nuclear disarmament is the sphere where haggling is inappropriate. In any case, time for this has already been lost.

The second factor is misunderstanding of the significance of nuclear weapons these days in specific countries. We have become a state incapable of owning these type of weapons in terms of both economy and maintenance. By different estimates, preservation of the nuclear status will cost our country an additional $10-30 billion. To say that we could raise such funds under the present huge foreign debt would be economic illiteracy and insane.

The third factor preventing the Nonproliferation Treaty from being ratified is the post-Soviet syndrome. To a greater or smaller extent, all of us have a complex of being proud of nuclear power which became the so-called pride of Soviet man. But it is high time that we understood that in the civilized world, only high standards of living and highly developed human rights and freedoms are something to be proud of."

Chernobyl Adjustments Begin, Safety Improves

LD1711202994 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1245 GMT 17 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev Oblast [no dateline as received]— Work on adjusting and commissioning the Chernobyl nuclear electric power station's first power unit reactor and its hot hydro- testing began today. The power unit is under a 5[illegible]day periodic maintenance.

"Despite the difficult situation as far as material and technical supply is concerned, all work is being done according to schedule," Borys Spektor, deputy chief engineer of the "Chornobylska nuclear electric power station" production association, said in an interview with UNIAN. Along with the recovery operations at certain blocks, modernization work is being carried out to improve the safety, operational reliability, and cost-effectiveness of the equipment. These measures were approved by the State Committee for Control of Work Safety in Nuclear Power-Engineering.

The commissioning of the first power unit is scheduled for 28 November.

Parliament Rescinds Crimean Laws as 'Contrary'

LD1711164194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1537 GMT 17 Nov 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Viktor Demidenko and Mikhail Melnik]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev November 17 TASS— After a discussion of a political and law situation in the autonomous republic of Crimea the Ukrainian Parliament by a majority vote has rescinded about 40 laws adopted by the Crimean Parliament as running contrary to the Ukrainian Constitution and law.

During the debates Ukrainian lawmakers assumed a tough position towards the Crimean Parliament and president. Proposals were made to dissolve the Crimean Parliament and abolish the institute of presidency. Many lawmakers insisted that the Crimea should be deprived of the status of an autonomous republic and be transformed into Ukraine's Crimean region, and came out for elections of the Regional Council. In fact, no Ukrainian parliamentarian expressed support to the activities of the Crimean authorities.

Moreover, the Ukrainian Parliament has adopted a resolution to stop financing Crimean state-run structures which operated in keeping with laws which run contrary to the Ukrainian laws and Constitution. The general prosecutor's office was instructed to punish officials responsible for the violation of the Ukrainian Constitution and laws.

Moroz Speaks on Economic Union

WS1711143094 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 12 Nov 94 p 2

[News conference with O. Moroz, chairman of the Supreme Council; and chairmen of Supreme Council commissions Volodymyr Storizhko and Borys Oliynyk, recorded by Vasyl Tuhluk: "The Achievement of Ukraine's Interests Means Stability in Europe and in the World"—first two paragraphs are HOLOS UKRAYINY introduction; questions and answers are unattributed]

[FBIS Translated Text] As we have already reported, a Ukrainian Supreme Council delegation, headed by Supreme Council Chairman Oleksandr Moroz, paid an official visit to Belgium. On 10 November, Oleksandr Moroz held a press conference for Ukrainian and foreign journalists to talk in detail about the visit's results. Opening the meeting, the legislative speaker said that the prime goal of the Belgian trip was to remove stereotypes of the European Community and increase its familiarity about Ukraine. This, undoubtedly, had to be done. For example, during discussions with members of the European Parliament's commission for foreign affairs, the Supreme Council chairman had to explain them that Ukraine is in Central Europe and not across the Urals, as they thought.

Next, Oleksandr Moroz and heads of the Supreme Council commissions who joined him on the trip to Belgium, Borys Oliynyk and Volodymyr Storizhko, answered a number of questions by media representatives which deviated a little from the meeting's subject.

[Question] We have found ourselves in a situation similar to Germany's after World War II. That country was

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delivered from crisis with the help of the Marshall Plan. How is Ukraine supposed to cope with crisis?

[Answer] As a matter of fact, measures to which the Ukrainian president, the parliament, and the government are currently resorting resemble that plan a little. Except for one thing, though—we have not received multibillion credits and have no army of occupation on our territory. While the former would be mostly welcome, we could perfectly do without the latter. Speaking seriously, we should strengthen incentives for work and take a whole set of measures, also when conducting monetary reform.

[Question] Yesterday, it was noticeable that you are against suspending the resolution by the Cabinet of Ministers on price increases and wages. At the same time, the draft resolution by the Supreme Council Presidium said that the government's decision was not well founded and violated the constitutional rights of citizens. Are there not any discrepancies here?

[Answer] No, there are not. It would not be wise to suspend the government's decision. The Supreme Council has no leverage to control the situation at a time when nine wage-increasing resolutions have already come into force, when prices in regions have started to rise at different levels, and when the regions have received different rights to regulate prices. In this situation, suspending the above resolution would mean impeding processes that are now under way. At the same time, this would give people in charge of distribution a perfect opportunity to cash in, while most of the population would not benefit from such a measure.

[Question] Have you reached any specific agreements regarding the European Parliament's financial aid to Ukraine?

[Answer] During our stay in Belgium, we discussed this issue. However, it should be noted that this institution is not responsible for finances. The European Parliament can only come up with suggestions regarding their allocation. You can sometimes be surprised how high the fence of preconditions is that should be met to receive aid. One of them concerns the operation of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant. This issue will certainly be raised at the next negotiations. However, I am convinced that the plant will continue to operate as we have no alternative.

[Question] Disagreements between the Ukrainian president and a considerable part of the parliament over economic reform are becoming increasingly visible. What do you think will happen if the Supreme Council decides to suspend the last resolution by the government? And the second question: If Crimea does not go any further than the known appeal to the Supreme Council and refuses to introduce changes to its Constitution, what kind of decision will you personally vote for?

[Answer] I believe that we disagree only in tactical views on coping with the crisis. The Crimean issue will be handled in the context of decisions that will be made by the Crimean Supreme Soviet.

[Question] When you first came to the parliament, you said that Ukraine lost World War III as part of the Soviet Union...[as published]

[Answer] I stick to this point because it is true. The end of the Cold War did not bring more stability to Europe. We are the subject of international law today, and should conduct our policy based on stability, peace, and accord. During our visit to NATO, its leadership displayed understanding of our initiatives regarding local peace zones, localization of brushfire conflicts, use of military formations, etc.

[Question] Could you specify the conditions on which financial assistance to Ukraine could be provided?

[Answer] In the European Parliament, we talked about accelerating the ratification of a partnership and cooperation agreement with member countries of the European Union. We received assurances that the European Parliament leadership will promote the ratification. For our part, we promised that the Supreme Council will ratify this agreement, too. It should be noted that the ratification procedures, especially in Belgium, are very complex, and it takes at least six months before a document gets to be examined. And you should remember the other 11 member states. This is why we have agreed that work will be conducted according to an interim treaty which hardly differs from the permanent one and whose activation procedures are much simpler.

[Question] Prices and wages have been increased. So has the salaries of deputies. How much does, say, the Supreme Council chairmen receive?

[Answer] My salary has been set at 12 million karbovantsi [K]. Having put my signature on the receipt, I also wrote on it that I will submit to the legislature a proposal to impose tax on the salary of all deputies. If approved, this measure will make my income equal to that of a lieutenant colonel. I will collect more than K8 million.

[Question] Has your delegation managed to "break a window into Europe?" And the second question: You are the Supreme Council chairman and head of the Socialist Party at the same time. Do you not think that this may prevent you from rising over the party interests should you, for example, investigate the events that took place on Khreshchatyk Street on 7 November?

[Answer] I believe that we were "breaking" that "window" very consciously and have managed to expand it to optimal limits.

As for the 7 November events, I will not look into that. My being the leader of my party does not prevent me from rising over its interests, because I have always made, and will always make, impartial judgments about things.

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[Question] They used both the carrot and the stick in dealing with Ukraine on the nuclear weapons issue. What was the mood of the talks in Belgium?

[Answer] Although our delegation was not entitled to discuss issues concerning the nonproliferation treaty, this problem was raised during every meeting. Our delegation emphasized that Ukraine will not be an obstacle to the treaty's prolongation. The three Supreme Council commissions put in charge of this issue have adopted a positive attitude toward it. This is why I believe the Ukrainian legislature will eventually ratify the treaty. It is not all that important when this will happen, today, tomorrow, or in December.

[Question] You advocate the point that land must not be a commodity...

[Answer] Today, we have various types of ownership, also of land. However, I believe that only those who rightly own land can dispose of their land, that is, the Ukrainian people.

[Question] What is your attitude toward the harsh opposition mounted by the Communist Party and its faction in the parliament against government institutions and their recent decisions?

[Answer] In my opinion, the Communist faction did not mount harsh opposition against the government in power. This was proved by the results of voting.

[Question] The president's address to the parliament pointed out the need to pass a law on the opposition. Who and when will devise it? Your fellow party members do not wear deputy badges. Why?

[Answer] This law will apparently be proposed by those who have the right of legislative initiative. For example, those who consider themselves the opposition; in the present situation, however, all factions consider themselves as such. Only, it is not clear who they are opposed to. As for the badge, I believe that a deputy should be recognized not by his badge but his deeds.

[Question] Many deputies of the previous Supreme Council have spent much time abroad. The parliament's budget and the total amount of expenditures reserved for foreign trips are still a mystery. Are you prepared to disclose the parliament's expenditures on this item for this year?

[Answer] It is true that sometimes a group of deputies—nobody knows how selected and financed—goes on a foreign trip. From now on, such trips, even if not sponsored by the Supreme Council and financed from the state budget, will be approved by the parliament.

I am surprised to see the situation where an international conference devoted to Crimea is held in Kiev and sponsored by someone from another country. I wonder how the United States would react if Borys Oliynyk held a conference on problems of California in Washington. This would be ridiculous. Meanwhile, people from all over the world gather in our country and discuss issues pertaining primarily to Ukraine.

[Question] Western countries insist that a memorandum giving Ukraine security assurances be signed after the nuclear nonproliferation treaty is ratified. What do you think about this?

[Answer] While participating in such negotiations, I have never seen these two actions being linked together.

Supreme Council Votes On Price Resolution

LD1711201994 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1835 GMT 17 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev—The Supreme Council on 16 November voted article-by-article on a draft resolution "On the Cabinet of Ministers' Information About Resolution No 733 of 21 October 1994 on Price Formation Under Conditions of Reforming the Economy." In compliance with the above resolution, the government is notified of "the inadmissibility of conducting a policy of price liberalization without the relevant increase in the level of the population's purchasing capacity."

It has been proposed that the Cabinet of Ministers should within three weeks' time submit draft nationwide programs for the consideration of parliament, taking into account the resolution "on the report by the president of Ukraine on the main principles of the economic and social policy" that was adopted by parliament. It has also been proposed that the Cabinet should submit, together with a draft state budget for 1995, proposals concerning a mechanism of indexing the population's savings at the Savings Bank of Ukraine as at 1 January 1992 and measures to extend purpose-oriented aid to the less provided for sections of the population.

Within a fortnight the government should submit a draft enforceable enactment on a mechanism of indexing the population's earnings in connection with the price rise. By 1 January 1995 the government should submit a draft law on price formation and a mechanism of establishing responsibility for its violation. It has also been proposed that a draft law on the repatriation of currency funds be submitted for the consideration of parliament.

Within a fortnight the government should work out a mechanism of indexing the money to be paid for the agricultural produce that had been procured under state contract and state order before resolution No 733 of 21 October 1994 was passed.

The Cabinet of Ministers, together with the government of Crimea and the executive committees of the oblast councils, should analyze the actual level of prices within one month. It has been proposed that the procurator general, the anti-monopoly committee, and the government of Ukraine should check the abidance by the current legislation during the formation of prices for food products and consumer goods and report [the

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results] of the check in one month's time. The resolution envisages that the issue of paying allowances for staple bread products to the less provided for sections of the population should be considered by 20 November.

The voting on the resolution as a whole will take place at a morning sitting on 18 November.

National Bank on End of Hard Currency Use

LD1711200394 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1600 GMT 17 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev, [no dateline as received]—The National Bank of Ukraine has distributed an e-mail message saying that the issuance of licences to carry out trade and render services for hard currencies is terminated as of 18 November with the aim of stabilizing the exchange rate of the karbovanets, contributing to the development of the currency market and terminating the circulation of foreign currencies on the territory of Ukraine. The validity of the licenses to carry out trade and render services for hard currencies is terminated as of 18 February 1995. Trade for hard currencies with the organizations that have a relevant license of the National Bank of Ukraine is allowed until 18 February 1995 only under contracts concluded before 18 November 1994 and registered by 1 December 1994. The message recommends that the authorized banks of Ukraine expand the network of foreign currency exchange offices.

According to the chairman of the board of the National Bank of Ukraine, Viktor Yushchenko, the annual turnover of about 1,200 businesses that were in possession of hard currency licenses stood at $150 million.

Lvov Oblast Leader Explains Price Increases

WS1711090394 Lvov VYSOKYY ZAMOK in Ukrainian 5 Nov 94 p 1

[Report by Yuriy Borutskyy and Borys Kozlovskyy: "If We Drift Back, We Will Perish"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Mykola Horyn, head of the Lvov Oblast Council, began his press conference by raising the most acute problem currently being discussed by people at their homes, workplaces, and while using public transportation.

As a matter of fact, officials choose not to use the expression "price increase." This is a very painful and complex process. Mykola Horyn said that on 2 November, officials from regional and oblast councils met with representatives of the Ukrainian Cabinet of Ministers. Everyone agreed with the conclusion that there is no alternative to those measures. We are confronted with the problem of how to ensure society social protection and cushion the blow dealt by the increases. People should understand that we can no longer continue the way we have been going. Old ways could lead to unpredictable consequences. No suggestions denying those measures were voiced during a meeting with the president. We must endure this period because it works to our benefit and future. Commenting on the extraordinary session meeting by the Supreme Council, Mykola Horyn noted that Communists condemn the current social protection plans as having only declarative nature. They, however, fail to come up with a reasonable alternative. They think that it is possible only to distribute without producing, and hope that the country will go back to the old centrally administered system.

Answering a question by journalist Leonid Sotnyk, who likened the present price hike to the one imposed three years ago, Mykola Horyn noted that there should be an entire package of measures. The present measures are being taken to neutralize a portion of unbacked money. This measure is also a requirement set by the G-7 as a condition for financial aid for our reforms. Another reason is that a comprehensive monetary reform is scheduled to be conducted soon. What causes problems is not only exchanging money, but also the correlation among prices and the setting of costs of production. Another point is that Donetsk has already made a stride ahead in conducting reforms. Prices there are twice as high as ours. Of course, this hurts, but such a measure can produce positive results in the future.

Myron Yankiv, head of the economics committee at the oblast council, explained various aspects of the government's price policies. All interested can read about them in a report on the session of the oblast council.

Yuriy Zyma, deputy chairman of the oblast council, said that he wanted to comfort all Lvov residents, first of all the most exposed groups. Some 760 billion karbovanetses are needed every month for the oblast's pensioners, the disabled, and single mothers. Half of the required amount has already been raised. Money is already on the way to its addressees, so everyone will get their payments by 26 November. I would also like to comfort our mothers and the 30,000 families living in Lvov Oblast who receive assistance for children. Officials from the pension fund assured us, Mr. Zyma continued, that payments will be made according to the established procedure. Yuriy Zyma also touched upon the issue of social protection of students. In his words, except for two institutes, salaries for the faculty and stipends for students have already been paid. However, this was only thanks to the initiative of heads of the institutions. Mykola Horyn added that the oblast council will assist all institutions and rectors in settling all education problems.

Next, Mykkola Horyn read out a letter to the Ukrainian Supreme Council and all Ukrainians regarding the so-called Great October [revolution]. However, he said that the oblast council refused to abolish the holiday. We should understand that if such a decision is made, a completely opposite decision will be immediately adopted in Luhansk, leading to legal chaos in the country.

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One of the journalists made public a resolution by the city council banning public celebration in Lvov of anniversaries of the October 1917 revolt, which took place in a foreign country.

Volodymyr Paltsun, correspondent of the "Perets" satirical magazine, asked the following question: "Ukrainian Supreme Council Chairman Oleksandr Moroz appointed his representative in the oblast. Who will he be, Pontius Pilate or a commissar? Does the Constitution provide for this position?"

Mykola Horyn answered: "You are overstating the role of local consultants of the Supreme Council. On the other hand, why do I need such a consultant, and what issue can I resolve with him? I have a direct phone line with the parliament head. Is it an additional link to delay resolution of problems, or is he an observer of the Socialist Party? The latter is the most likely explanation. I asked the Supreme Council to remove this position and will not maintain contacts with a man who cannot help me.

Andriy Shkil, chief editor of HOLOS NATSIYI newspaper, said that the city council banned a meeting planned by the Ukrainian National Assembly-Ukrainian National Self-Defense [UNA-UNSO] for 5 November near the opera theater. That event was intended to commemorate the crackdown on the UNA-UNSO manifestation by "Berkut" riot police detachments.

Mykola Horyn said that he did not know why the meeting was banned, and suggested that all public organizations hold their meetings near the "Ukraine" stadium—a site of the first democratic assemblies in 1988-1989.

A journalist from POST-POSTUP asked Mykola Horyn to comment on the results of the vote at the oblast council to fire Ivan Motrynets.

Mykola Horyn: "The result speaks for itself, even though for many, it came as a surprise. Some people pretended that they did not understand why this happened. This psychological game was only too visible on the faces of our deputies. But what happened has happened. Let me only say that we will work on candidacy for a new chief who would really be familiar with our region. I think we have people capable of heading the militia. We are not going to engage old faces. Rumor has it that Shabayev will come back. This will not happen."

Hanna Stetsiv asked about current employment of Iryna Kalynets, former head of the oblast education administration and a deputy in the previous Ukrainian parliament.

A sincere answer to this question was given by Yuriy Zyma. He said that Ms. Kalynets made a valuable contribution to the national education system. But after some discussion with the teacher community, he decided that her return would not be welcomed.

The Lvov Oblast chairman complemented the answer: "Iryna Kalynets did not have any suggestions. But the issue of her employment will be resolved."

Miners Strike, Resolve To Halt Coal Shipments

LD1711191094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1640 GMT 17 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] 110 coal miners have gone on strike in Chelyabinsk region, the Urals, bringing the local Kapitalnaya pit to a standstill, leader of the regional mineworkers' union committee Yuriy Globa told Interfax on Thursday.

He reaffirmed the miners' resolve to halt coal shipments for three days starting from 20:00 local time on Thursday to all debtor customers including the power grids of Chelyabinsk and Kirovo regions. The unions put the overall debt to miners at Rbl [R] 35.5 billion.

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Belarus

Dabravolski on U.S. Trip to Study Elections

WS1811113994 Minsk BELAPAN in English 1600 GMT 17 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] On November 17, United Democratic Party of Belarus (UDPB) Chairman Alyaksandr Dabravolski held a press conference on the results of his visit to the United States. From October 30 to November 11 Mr. Dabravolski had an opportunity to study the system of elections to the U.S. Congress. The UDPB leader met with U.S. President Bill Clinton, as well as congressmen and governors. A. Dabravolski declared that "only the liberal policy the UDPB adheres to may lead to the real rise in the population's incomes". Answering a journalist's question what factions will be the most influential at the new Belarusian parliament, the UDPB leader said that the left-wing forces would be.

Officials Support Kiev's NPT Acceptance

LD1711233794 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1710 GMT 17 Nov 94

[By BELINFORM correspondent for TASS]

[FBIS Translated Text] Minsk, 17 Nov—The Belarusian Foreign Ministry today made a statement on behalf of the republic's government in support of the Ukrainian parliament's decision to accede to the Treaty on Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons [NPT].

The Foreign Ministry statement notes that "this is certainly a considerable contribution towards strengthening peace and international security. The decision in question opens favorable prospects for the practical implementation of the Republic of Belarus's initiative on creating a non-nuclear zone from the Baltic to the Black Sea."

The Belarusian Government believes that Ukraine's accession to the NPT removes the final barrier to the 1991 Treaty on Reducing and Limiting Strategic Offensive Weapons (START-I), which envisages the destruction of arsenals of the most destructive nuclear missiles, coming into force. The coming into force of the START-I treaty in turn will open the way to the implementation of the 1993 START-II treaty under which Russia and the United States took upon themselves the obligation to continue cutting their nuclear missiles.

"All of this creates a favorable international situation for the review conference on the NPT planned for April 1995 to take the decision to prolong it indefinitely," the statement says.

Lukashenka Appoints Military Policy Aide

WS1811103194 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 0400 GMT 18 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] [Belarusian President] Alyaksandr Lukashenka has issued an edict appointing the defense minister's aide for issues of military policy. Yuryy (Spartnow) has been named as the aide.

Defense Minister on Problems in Military

WS1811121594 Minsk BELAPAN in English 1400 GMT 17 Nov 94

[Interview with Defense Minister Anatol Kastenka by unidentified BELAPAN correspondent from the "Analysis, Commentaries, Forecasts" feature No. 5, 7 Nov-14 Nov 94]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] What kind of situation is in the Belarusian Army after two years and a half since its forming? What did the command manage to do and what did they fail to do during such a short period of time? What did the Belarusian Army inherit? At the request of a BELAPAN correspondent these and other questions are answered by Colonel General Anatol Kastenka, Belarus' Minister of Defense.

[Kastenka] Analyzing any process which took place within the framework of the construction of the national Armed Forces, one can note both positive and negative sides of it. For instance, nobody is going to underestimate the importance of the efforts that were exerted for reducing in the overall strength of the Army.

But, as it turned out, a great number of officers and warrant officers who were retired or who sent in their resignation had arrived in Belarus from other CIS member-states during the last few years. Having been given apartments in Belarus they retired, and now we think how to provide those who continue serving with lodgements.

Or, by way of illustration, the transition we are carrying out to a new structure of the Armed Forces—corps-brigade-battalion—instead of army-division-regiment. A great and laborious work has been done. A rather high level of fighting strength and efficiency has been reached. At the same time the reorganization was frequently accompanied by an ungrounded increase in the number of staff officers at the headquarters of all levels, including the Central Headquarters.

As for the problems that are yet to solve, I should like to point out the lack of a clear conception of the development and adjustment of the Armed Forces. We have no clear determination of what they are to be in the end. It is high time that we worked on this matter. We should have planned, outlined proceeding from the general policy of the state and the international situation. The same is as regards individual directions, in particular, the system of anti-aircraft defense. At present we are coming to an understanding about the necessity to amalgamate the air forces and the units of anti-aircraft defense as they perform similar functions. Simultaneously we should simplify the structure and improve the controllability of these forces.

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We have a lot of problems (but this is through the fault of not only the military office but also the state as a whole) in the reinforcement of the Army. At present our units have only about 70 percent of vacancies filled. I do not want to say that Belarus must have a huge army. But we must try to bring the present Army up to full strength.

[BELAPAN] At present only those who did not managed to take loop-holes in the laws to evade the discharging of their "honorary duty" are serving in the army as soldiers and sergeants.

[Kastenka] Yes, it is quite true. We should draw the state's attention to this fact. The laws are made in such a way that there are opportunities for their different interpretations. Add to this the officially established privileges that allow some draftees to evade military service. The Ministry of Defense has already got some observations on this matter, including those concerning the system of training of officers in the reserve at the military departments of our civil higher educational institutions. At present we have got a great deal of specialists that are not wanted for the Army. The military departments at the civil higher institutions are a thing of the past. If this is recognized, the Armed Forces will be given a rather highly educated and trained group of soldiers and sergeants, which is of vital importance for raising the general intellectual level of our Army.

[BELAPAN] Mr. Kastenka, and how is the problem of officers' training being solved at higher military schools?

[Kastenka] In the country there are two higher military institutions—an engineers' training school and a commanders' training school—which provide the Army with junior officers in most necessary professions. Besides, we have to send students to military schools in the Russian Federation. Unfortunately, education costs much there. For instance, at the Krasnodar flight school we have to pay $1,200-1,400 for one hour of flights in the double manning L-39, and about $10,000—in the MiG-29 fighter aircraft. During the period of training it is necessary to have flown from 50 to 80 hours. That is why at present we have to take our students from there to the Ukraine, to Kharkov, where education will be cheaper but the level of training is kept on a good level. In general, these problems are workable. But as for the academic education...

[BELAPAN] May we say today that the establishment of a national military academy was recognized as impossible?

[Kastenka] As a matter of fact, for the time being we cannot train specialists with a really high level of skill? The reason is that there is no highly developed scientific potential, highly skilled lecturers. We send officers to study in Russia, which also costs a pretty penny. For instance, at the General Staff Academy we have to pay $900 a month for a student. What budget can stand up to such expenses? That is why this year we sent only a half of the officers we planned to send to Russia for studies. A national military academy will be established without fail, true, not today, not tomorrow, and even not in a year, though we planned so. But at present we are working on general approaches, on educational programmes. We should not rush through this work, especially as the future academy will be established as a component of the general system of military education in the country.

[BELAPAN] Mr. Kastenka, what about the problem of material incentive...

[Kastenka] ... and in view of it, many officers' leaving for serving in the Russian Army? Well, unfortunately, for the last two years about 760 pilots left Belarus. It is a very appreciable loss. Indeed, the money allowances of our officers stand at a low level, though we are taking some measures for solving this problem. We have slightly reduced the gap thanks to the recent raising of wages, we also plan to introduce a military skill coefficient, to put into practice a differential approach to the payment for servicemen's labour, taking into account different conditions of service.

[BELAPAN] Housing is one more problem, more serious...

[Kastenka] There were four and a half apartmentless officers and warrant officers when I was commander in chief of the Belarusian military district. It was supposed that 7 military settlements would be put into commission before the end of 1994. And I hoped for the complete solution of the housing problem. At present I am informed there are ten and a half thousand apartmentless officers and warrant officers in the Army. What's happened? Somebody retires having been given a flat, some officers reserve the flats for themselves having been transferred to another garrison, others left for Russia and granted their flats on lease. i.e. a great part of the housing resources was squandered. At present we try to solve the problem through housing construction cooperatives, covering 50 percent of flats' cost, recommend servicemen to take credits at banks, to buy flats at state prices, to build houses by themselves, etc.

[BELAPAN] But it is necessary to budget for this. This year's budget of the Ministry of Defense totalled 204.2 billion rubles. How much are you expect to receive from the government for the Army's needs in 1995?

[Kastenka] This matter was discussed at a session of the military collegium. It is impossible to receive from the state budget the sum that the Army requires. I asked the Cabinet of Ministers for allotting about a billion and a half rubles, in view of inflation, to the Ministry of Defense. But we may expect to receive only no more than a half of this figure. And this will be enough only for the payment of money allowances, purchase of fuel and food. But we need to build houses, to buy spare parts to military equipment, to repair it, you know.

[BELAPAN] In the future you will be inevitably faced with the problem of modernization of the Belarusian Army's equipment, not only repairs.

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[Kastenka] Yes, of course. Machinery cannot be fit for use forever. It shows wear, becomes obsolete. We must not be idle. It is necessary to create a base for the gradual re-equipment of the Armed Forces, to pile up a money reserve. By the way we have already got the programme of re-equipment for the period till 2005. Now we are to search out resources, and we are doing so. To say nothing of the fact that we have to save on all conditions of a toughest economy, we are putting into practice absolutely new approaches to the solution of this problem. In particular, I have prohibited to sell to anyone the military camps that was left. They are only to be granted on lease. The same is as regards depots, store-houses. I do not rule out trade in arms, and this became one of the most important points that we must to use with a view to make money for the Ministry of Defence.

[BELAPAN] Mr. Kastenka, our state declared itself to be non-nuclear, strictly observes all the international treaties on the reduction of military equipment instead of selling it to make money...

[Kastenka] It is true, and we destruct it practically alone. At the same time Belarus is the only state in the world, which gave up voluntarily nuclear weapons. At present there are only 36 launching plants and a certain number of ammunition to them on our territory. And we will not abandon the policy we chose, and it is necessary to declare this from the highest rostrums on the international arena. But it is high time to say: if the world community wants to see us observe strictly our commitments, help us to destruct, conventional arms at least. It is necessary to say this constantly and distinctly. Unfortunately, the present situation is not only the result of a "contribution" by our diplomats, but also a consequence of the too good honesty we are notable for. We overfulfill targets, they control us, clap their hands and say what regular guys we are. And today we may not to sell even those tons of scrap metal, former strength of the Soviet Army, which is rusting on the territory of the Borisov tank repair works, having a bad effect on the environment.

[BELAPAN] Is the same fate in store for the almost three hundred tanks T-80 the Army is armed with?

[Kastenka] While being commander in chief of the Belarusian military district, speaking at a session of the Supreme Soviet I declared against adding the 11th division which was armed with these tanks, but I was not backed up. We had not even a corresponding repair base as we had T-72's. And now T-80's are subject to reduction. I cannot bring myself to put them for cutting to pieces. And I shall not do so, in the near future at least. It is necessary to find a civilized solution to this problem. And I believe it will be found.

[BELAPAN] Mr. Kastenka, what is your opinion about the NATO Partnership for Peace initiative? What will Belarus derive from joining in it?

[Kastenka] We cannot be beyond the processes that are going on in the world. But Belarusians' mode of thinking is notable for its unhurriedness in making one or another decisions. And I like this. Approving to a cosiderable degree our participation in this program, I realize well what expenses we will bear if we join. We will have to increase the degree of our "partnership", you know. Today's budget of Belarus cannot stand up to this. Our wishes should tie in with our potentialities. And our potentialities are far more modest as compared with other states.

[BELAPAN] Mr. Kastenka, taking office you declared you were not going to press for the withdrawal of Russia's forces from the territory of Belarus as soon as possible, what reasons were you guided by?

[Kastenka] The agreements that were made earlier could not take into account today's factors. Russia had to intensify the withdrawal of its forces from Germany, other countries. As for us, such a haste is fraught with rise in the number of barracks with gaping holes instead of windows, depots of ammunition which has been kept for 30 years and dangerous even to touch, the rest of rocket propellant, and so on. I met the commanding officers of the Russian units, said: "What are you doing? When you were transferred to Belarus you came here with pleasure. The Belarusian land gave you to eat and to drink. That is why now be good enough to leave in the accepted manner." Many agreed then. Besides, we formed a commission for controlling the Russian forces' withdrawal. Now that ammunition and the rest of propellant are being taken away.

[BELAPAN] Two Russian military establishments—a radio centre of the Navy in Vileyka and a nuclear attack notification centre in Baranavichy—were to remain on the territory of Belarus for a longer period. What is to be done with them?

[Kastenka] The Ministry is completing its work on a draft agreement with Russia on the subsequent exploitation of them during the next 20-25 years. As is generally known, it was supposed that these military establishments would be assigned to the Russian side on the terms specified in an agreement on the unification of monetary systems. As nobody cherishes hopes for such a unification, we need to revert to the matter of their status on the Belarusian territory. The draft agreement, in particular, envisages Russia's paying rent for land, realty, public utilities, the prices being real, not reduced. Their fate after they are not fit any longer for use in view of the wear and tear of equipment is also specified in the draft agreement. The Russian side will be to dismantle the equipment to take it out of the country, and to hand over buildings and installations in an ecologically pure state. As for the establishments' status for the next few years, they will be military establishments under civil control. Together with servicemen, civilians, and not only Russians but also citizens of Belarus will serve there. The number of members of staff is also determined by the draft agreement.

[BELAPAN] Mr. Kastenka, taking into account the great deal of problems the Army is to solve, and the solution of

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many problems is put off for a long time, can the Army ensure an efficient safeguarding of state security?

[Kastenka] If the state wants to have a well-equipped and highly skilled army, it should take care of the Armed Forces, exert every effort so that the Armed Forces may become a real and strong defender of its interests. That is why all questions, including social security and housing, must be solved at state level with a certain initiative from the Ministry of Defence, commanders and chiefs for making the Armed Forces partially self-repaid. We should interact. We are not an inert mass, not a group of officers who do nothing but demand something. We realize well that in the present situation all are in difficult straits. I say this at meetings with officers. I also say that it is necessary to wait a little. The stabilization of the economy is inevitable, and then the Armed Forces will take an adequate position in a civilized legal state.

Ministry Issues Privatization Vouchers

WS1811114394 Minsk BELAPAN in English 1600 GMT 17 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] About 2 million Belarusians have already applied for inscribed privatization vouchers (IPC). Around 460,000 of them have been given IPC certificates. Over 4.3 million inscribed privatization vouchers, i.e. 10 percent of the total number of the vouchers that were handed out were exchanged through the Saving Bank for the shares of enterprises under privatization.

As a BELAPAN correspondent was informed at the Ministry of State Property Control and Privatization, the greatest interest in cheque privatization is displayed by the inhabitants of the Mahilyow and Brest regions. Some 38 and 33.8 percent of them, respectively, have already sent in applications for IPC's. The Brest region is in the lead as regards the number of IPC certificates that were handed out. The inhabitants of the Vitebsk region and the city of Minsk are the most indifferent: Applications for vouchers were send in by only 10 and 13 percent of those who have the right to them, respectively. The inhabitants of the Vitebsk and Mahilyow regions are the most active in using the vouchers for purchasing shares.

Moldova

General Lebed on 'Unique' Dniester Region

MM1711151494 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 12 Nov 94 p 5

[Report by special correspondent Aleksey Chelnokov: "Games of Chance in 'Nowhere' Land"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Tiraspol, Bendery, and Moscow—The previous day General Aleksandr Lebed, commander of the 14th Army, spoke with the local hetman: Tomorrow we are going to remove the blockade from the railroad together—after all, am I or am I not your honored Cossack? Of course you are "honored" and of course we "are going," Vladimir Ryabinskiy, hetman of the Black Sea Cossack Host, said.

The united Cossack freemen are, alas, a thing of the past: The next day Lebed set off for the "railroad war" as a solitary peacemaker, in a general's and not a Cossack uniform. And although the fire of this war, which burned out of two car tires (it had suddenly gotten cold), blazed on the main railroad line in the region of the Moldavian [Moldovan] village of Barnitsa, the general stopped at one of Bendery's secondary schools.

"You do not understand what you are doing, what consequences await us and you," the army commander rebuked the teachers who had gathered there, in a fatherly way. "But if blood is spilled on the railroad tracks I will shoot you."

A day later local television interviewed the teachers: "It was terrible...to say such a thing...he's some kind of terrorist...," the anxious women sobbed.

During all this time their students' mothers steadfastly kept watch on the tracks. On a metal girder blocking the multitracked main line a mass of little placards hung, two of which were written in Russian: "Do not drag our children into politics!" and "The Latin alphabet is our future!"

"Our children don't need the Moldavian language in Cyrillic, which we were taught," one of the protestors, Nina Kiriciuk, a housewife whose son studies in Bendery's School No. 19, said to me. "If they don't learn the Latin alphabet, they will not be able to get into Moldavian higher educational establishments and will become second-class citizens."

"You are protesting the Dniester Moldavian Republic leadership's actions, but the trains, having stopped in Tiraspol, are failing to carry freight to Chisinau. What sense is there," I ask, "in blockading the railroad on Moldavian [Moldovan] territory?"

"It's all the same to us where it is," they reply, "let the politicians sort things out among themselves. We will sit here all winter if we have to."

On 24 October this year the teaching of the Moldavian language in the Latin alphabet was banned by an edict of Dniester Moldavian Republic President Igor Smirnov. But if you really want to learn it so much—the edict conceded—do so in private (that is fee-paying) schools or optional lessons.

Before this, on 15 October, the so-called "congress of the people of the Dniester Moldavian Republic," set up by the Leninist followers of Anpilov from the Tiraspol United Council of Labor Collectives, adopted a decree "On Measures to Prevent the Romanianization of the Educational Process in Public Education Establishments," in which it demanded that "violators of the laws 'On Languages' and 'On Education' be brought to book,"

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and that "teaching on the territory of Tiraspol, Bendery, and Rybnitsa go over to the Cyrillic alphabet" before 1 December.

Representatives of the Moldovan People's Front called for protests, after which the women came out onto the railroad. This is a tried and tested method: Four years ago the war in Moldova started in just such a manner. Then, after Kishinev had adopted the law on the state language, a wave of protest actions spread through the Dniester region. Members of the People's Front insisted on the conflict being "resolved by force," and three inhabitants of Dubossary, killed by Moldavian Special-Purpose Militia Detachment troops, began the martyrology of this war 2 November 1990.

We had to get from the scene of the "railroad battles" to the Dniester capital by relay: Not every car with Moldavian license plates will go to the Dniester Moldavian Republic, and vice versa. Everything is as it was a year or two years ago: A Moldavian police checkpoint stands at the approach to Bendery: Beyond the city on the other side of the Dniester you get held up by a Dniester Moldavian Republic border post. On both sides they carpingly scrutinize the number plates, not losing hope that they will come across a car belonging to the police or the state security service and remember old scores. Then let the joint peacekeeping forces come to the rescue! If, of course, you manage to report the matter to them....

The authorities in Tiraspol regard the dispute over the alphabets fairly calmly: It is not centered on their territory, what is more the losses to Moldova inflicted by the blockade are far greater.

"We will soon discuss this problem with one of the most important figures in the Moldovan Government," Shevtsov, the Dniester Moldavian Republic's state security minister, says. "Its representatives should arrive any time now and I will take them to President Smirnov. If it were not for Gen. Lebed's personal qualities—he does not tire of repeating that the Dniester Moldavian Republic leadership is doomed—everything would be simpler."

But Lebed is stubborn: A week does not go by without yet another example of the Dniester rulers being exposed. So that the theme of their corruption does not become boring, the general pulls out of his hat first the former commander of the "Dniester" battalion who stated that he actually sent his "cutthroats" to the White House, then the former terrorist Garbuz who acknowledged that a year ago he bore false witness in the trial in the famous "Ilashku case." Apparently there is no great appetite for stale sensations.

The army commanders' pronouncements continue to be aphoristic:

"The Dniester Moldavian Republic will not survive in its present form for long. Here we have a microcosmic testing ground for the processes taking place in Russia: The leadership is completely corrupted and half-drunk."

The offended leadership complains weakly, hinting that it too has a suitcase full of compromising materials concerning Lebed. But it refuses to display its contents, saying that it values the Russian Army's honor. And it continues to build the state, consisting of 24 ministries, committees, and departments, as well as strengthening international ties with equally unrecognized countries—Abkhazia and South Ossetia (in accordance with treaties Abkhaz and Ossetians will study in a local militia school). Meanwhile, the 700,000-strong population stands in bread lines without threats or criticism.

The Dniester region is a unique territory—it occupies a transitional "nowhere" place on the arc of geopolitical instability that stretches from the Balkans across the Caucasus to Tajikistan. This "nowhere" country is a distinctive state which draws into itself, like some great funnel, romantics, adventurers, and soldiers of fortune with their unthinkable ideas and fantastic projects. Here it really is only one step from the sublime to the ridiculous.

Inhabitants of the Dniester region most likely do not stop and think that somewhere nearby history is perhaps being made. Their wages when converted from Dniester coupons fluctuate between $2 and $20. Food store shelves sag under the weight of the jars of pickled cucumbers. Things which are fit to consume can only be found at the market.

As a result the number of thefts of food products has increased greatly. Apart from this, according to statistics from the republic prosecutor's office, the number of premeditated murders and cases of grievous bodily harm shot up this year.

The Dniester region, like any other state, has its own court, prosecutor's office, militia, and prison. At present the trial of a hired killer, with nine victims to his name, is drawing to a close in Tiraspol. The court's verdict has been decided in advance and Republic Prosecutor Boris Luchik is preoccupied with finding a qualified professional executioner. What kind of a state is this, he says, if it doesn't have an executioner?

Another problem for the power structures is the disastrous shortage of cadres. They can hardly wait for the first graduates from the local militia school. Only Shevtsov is not complaining about the current situation:

"Within the State Security Ministry apparatus," he says half in jest, "one third work for Russian counterintelligence, one third for Moldavian, and one third for Ukrainian. They would be happy to leave but they are not allowed to."

The day before my arrival a junior lieutenant in the state security service shot a local worthy who got into a scrap while drunk, without realizing who he was up against. Lebed immediately made a statement about the havoc

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caused by the Dniester special services. The officer hurriedly jotted down an appeal in his defense and set off to see students at Tiraspol University where he studies as a correspondence student, in order to collect signatures for it.

De jure, the "nowhere" land does not exist, and therefore, apparently, there can be no justice there.

"But how will you act," I ask Luchik, "if, for example, Russia demands that you release one of its citizens who has committed a crime on the territory of the Dniester Moldavian Republic?

"There have been no such cases yet. Moreover, we carry out certain operations jointly with the Russian law enforcement agencies."

But the arm of the Dniester special services is, it seems, long. A terrorist act was committed against Luchik 26 May. His wife perished but by a stroke of luck he survived. "The criminal's name is already known," the prosecutor says. "Now a comrade of ours is setting off for abroad to bring the murderer back." Is this legal? It depends how you look at it, Luchik says.

In the Dniester region ordinary people do not like to talk about their leaders. People said to me on the streets that you cannot eat politics. "Let those up there, above, sort out Lebed themselves, bring in a monarchy with zemstvos, or build communism—it's all the same to us. As long as we had something to live on." But the plants—the only source of prosperity—are gradually shutting down. The Dniester coupon, which is printed at the state bank-note plant, is falling rapidly.

Meanwhile the "promising" echelons of power are splitting into clubs in the corridors of bureaucratic power and the army headquarters. The mirages of the "zero" land, it seems, will continue to trouble the imaginations of bellicose politicians and generals playing at politics for a long time to come.

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Kazakhstan

Government Orders Reworking of Oil Ministry Plans

LD1811094094 Almaty Kazakh Radio Network in Russian 1500 GMT 17 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Akezhan Kazhegeldin held a working meeting today in which heads of ministries and departments and representatives of the Supreme Council took part. A program for developing the Republic's oil and gas industry was discussed. Nurlan Balgimbayev, minister of the oil and gas industry, presented the program which envisions increasing the extraction of hydrocarbon raw materials to 26 million [metric] tonnes a year by the end of 1995 and to 45 million tonnes by 2000, given investment by foreign companies.

Participants in the meeting approved the proposed priority directions for a sharp increase in oil and gas extraction and the planned reforms of structural relationships in this sector. At the same time, during the discussion many pointed critical remarks were made. In particular, it was noted that maintaining the national Munaygaz company in its present role alongside the Ministry of the Oil and Gas Industry will inevitably lead to various kinds of blunders and conflicts. Some legal issues require clarification. Ways of achieving the planned goals have not been defined precisely enough.

Akezhan Kazhegeldin summed up the discussion. After approving the program in principle, participants proposed that the ministry should elaborate on it, taking into account the criticism and proposals. This is to be completed by 30 November.

Meeting Held on Oil, Gas Industry Issues

LD1711162394 Almaty Kazakhstan Television Network in Kazakh 1500 GMT 17 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Akezhan Kazhegeldin held a working meeting today with the leadership of a number of ministries, departments, and representatives of the Supreme Kenges. At issue was a program for developing the oil and gas complex of the Republic, which was presented by Nurlan Ballgynbayev, the oil and gas industry minister. The program envisages that the annual output of crude oil will reach—taking into account the contribution of foreign companies—up to 26 million tonnes by the end of 1995 and up to 45 million tonnes by the year 2000.

On the whole, the participants of the meeting displayed a benevolent attitude toward the proposed priority guidelines oriented toward a sharp increase in oil and gas recovery, as well as toward the intended structural reform of the industry. At the same time, they voiced quite a number of very sharp critical remarks while discussing the program. In particular, it was noted that preserving the national Munaygas company in its present shape and condition, along with the Oil and Gas Ministry, will inevitably lead to various kinds of dubbing and discrepancies. Several legal issues are to be cleared up. Ways to reach the objectives are not quite clearly outlined.

The results of the discussion were summed up by Kazhegeldin. The participants of the meeting have approved the program, in principle, but suggested it should be elaborated by the Ministry taking into account all critical remarks and suggestions voiced at the meeting. A deadline was set for this work: It must be completed by 30 November.

Kyrgyzstan

Akayev Interviewed on Invitation to Butrus-Ghali

LD1711161594 Bishkek Kyrgyz Radio First Program Network in Kyrgyz 0000 GMT 17 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Kyrgyz President Askar Akayev invited UN Secretary-General Butrus Butrus-Ghali to pay an official visit to the republic in order to better familiarize himself with Kyrgyzstan's problems. The head of state told correspondents of KYRGYZKABAR and ITAR-TASS in an exclusive interview about the invitation. The invitation was conveyed during Akayev's meeting with Vladimir Petrovskiy, UN deputy secretary general and director general of the European headquarters. Their talks in the Palace of Nations in Geneva showed that the world community highly appreciates the Republic's effort to implement democratic reform and to strengthen stability in the country.

In the interview, Akayev compared the United Nations with a flickering candle which is warming the hearts of people in all corners of our planet. He said that they discussed issues related to using the great potential possibilities of the UN European region and its institutions, in particular, [word indistinct], the World Health Organization, and the Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees. This cooperation could facilitate democratization in the newly liberated countries, especially in Kyrgyzstan where United Nations' initiatives are already bearing fruit, promoting the Kyrgyz reforms, Akayev stressed.

We are very glad that on the eve of the 50th anniversary of the United Nations, this organization is living up to the expectations pinned on it by mankind, the head of state continued. In 1994-95 important summits are planned, devoted to the most urgent topical issues, especially for the transitional countries. In particular, we have received an invitation and will participate in the Copenhagen meeting on social protection, in [word indistinct] forum which will discuss the role of women in the modern world.

According to Akayev, major importance is ascribed in the republic to the fair representation of women in the Kyrgyz organs of power.

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Akayev To Use Swiss Experience To Fight Corruption

LD1711190894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1640 GMT 17 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kyrgyzstan plans to stiffen cooperation with the Swiss authorities in fighting against organized crime, President Askar Akayev told Interfax on Thursday [17 November] at the end of a two day trip to Bern and Geneva.

He relies on Swiss help in training the country's police force and providing specialized equipment.

Akayev said the Swiss experience in forecasting and rescue operations during natural calamities may likewise be very useful.

The Kyrgyz leader spoke of having discussed the two areas of cooperation with President Otto Stich of Switzerland.

Bishkek also raised the question of extra Swiss aid. Akayev said Kyrgyzstan was the only Central Asian state receiving direct financial support from Switzerland. This includes a $24.2 million grant to be spent on the development of Kyrgyzstan's energy sector and health system, technical assistance and consultancy.

Campaign Irregularities Noted by Electoral Commission

LD1811095194 Bishkek Kyrgyz Radio First Program Network in Russian 1000 GMT 17 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Two election campaigns coincided on 5 November in Kyrgyzstan: The small election campaign for the primary-level local councils ended and the big campaign for the bicameral Supreme Council began. The Central Election Commission of the Kyrgyz Republic devoted its regular session to the results of the former in particular. In addition, it thoroughly discussed the conditions and procedure for canvassing by candidates for the post of deputy in the new parliament. [passage omitted]

The canvassing issue caused heated debate. The candidates' rights in this regard are regulated by Articles 9 and 37 of the Law on Elections to the Supreme Council in the Kyrgyz Republic. The chief requirement which these articles specify is the creation of equal conditions for all contenders without exception to employ the various forms of canvassing. Above all, this means providing equal airtime and newspaper space for media appearances and campaign posters, paid for out of the budget. If any candidate finds additional financial backing, this must be recorded by the Central Election Commission and pass through the bank account of the designated fund.

The fight that has already begun for posts in the new parliament actually promises to be very tough. It is not ruled out that there will be situations that are not covered by the existing law. They have, in fact, already arisen. For example, a number of well-off candidates are saying they intend to pay for extra television and radio airtime and newspaper space in order to reach a larger number of voters. Their opponents with more modest means are naturally flatly against what they regard as a lordly approach.

What is to be done? The members of the Central Election Commission, which is assigned the role of arbitrator in situations like this, have ruled that a hasty decision on a matter of such crucial importance for the outcome of the election would be fraught with unpredictable complications. They ruled that they must meet again and, with the help of the republic's leading lawyers, envision every case that could arise during the election campaign, and only then adopt another document regulating the canvassing activity of both the candidates themselves and their supporters. This will be published in the press in the near future.

Tajikistan

Opposition Leader Says Russians Violated Cease-Fire

LD1711160494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1431 GMT 17 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Russians violate the cease-fire agreement in Tajikistan, Khoji Akbar Turajonzoda, an opposition leader, said in a message to the UN mission chief Liviu Botha.

Under the Islamabad truce agreement, all the parties in the conflict, in particular the Russian border guards and the CIS peacekeeping troops, have no right to regroup, let alone engage in combat, Turajonzoda emphasized.

He said that the CIS troops fired heavy artillery shells and helicopter-borne missiles at opposition troops near the village of Olur, Shuroabad District, wounding two people on 13 and 14 November.

Air bombs were dropped in the vicinity of the village of Bashon on both the Tajik and Afghani sides of the border on several occasions. As a result, a woman and two children were injured, Turajonzoda wrote.

Unless an inquiry is held, the opposition will withdraw from the mixed truce

'No Cease-Fire' on Tajik-Afghan Border

LD1711203494 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1800 GMT 17 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] There has been no cease-fire on the Tajik-Afghan border, Lieutenant General Chechulin, the commander of the group of Russian border troops in Tajikistan, believes. In an interview to our correspondent the commander said, in particular, that since the cease-fire agreement came into force on 20 October, Russian border guards had stopped 29 attempts by

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armed groups to cross the border and were subjected to 17 attacks by opposition militants.

Turkmenistan

President Niyazov Ends Visit to Romania

LD1711124994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1206 GMT 17 Nov 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Nikolay Morozov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Bucharest November 17 TASS—A political and legal foundation of the development of Romanian-Turkmenian relations in new conditions has been laid during an official visit of President Saparmurat Niyazov of Turkmenistan to Romania.

The Turkmenian leader held talks with Romanian President Ion Iliescu and had meetings with Prime Minister Nicolae Vacaroiu, Chairman of the Senate Oliviu Gherman and Chairman of the Chamber of Deputies Adrian Nastase. The two delegations discussed a possibility of Romania's participation in the construction of a gas pipeline from Turkmenistan to Western Europe and of the use of Romanian ports for communication between Turkmenistan and Western Europe. A declaration on the relations of friendship and cooperation between the two countries, as well as a number of intergovernmental agreements on trade, economic, scientific, technical and cultural relations were signed on the results of the visit.

Today Niyazov left Bucharest for Slovakia, the second of the central European countries he intends to visit.

Uzbekistan

President Receives Japanese Business Delegation

LD1811093594 Tashkent Uzbekistan Television in Russian 1400 GMT 17 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Today [17 November] President of Uzbekistan Islam Karimov received Tadzuo Nishida, the managing director of the major Japanese Sumitomo Corporation.

Greeting the guests, our head of state noted that Uzbekistan is interested in long-term cooperation with Japan. He stressed that the visit that an Uzbek state delegation paid to Japan in May this year gave additional impetus to bilateral cooperation. The president noted with satisfaction that in June 1994 the Sumitomo Corporation opened a representative office in Tashkent and established a close relationship with its Uzbek partners.

Sumitoma Corporation is one of the most influential corporations in the world. Last year it had a turnover of $150 billion, while the Sumitomo Bank was number one worldwide in terms of capital. The company has already supplied Uzbekistan with chemicals worth $2 million and oil extraction equipment worth $10 million.

President Karimov noted that we still have great possibilities for expanding our cooperation further. He received with satisfaction the news that the Japanese are to take part in developing the Kokdumalak and Mingbulak oil deposit projects. Nishida thanked the president for the warm and cordial reception, and underlined his interest in developing business ties with Uzbekistan. He said that the Japanese-Uzbek economic cooperation committee is active in Japan, and expressed confidence that this visit would serve to boost contacts between the two countries still further.

Uzbek Deputy Prime Ministers Otkir Sultanov and Kayim Khakkulov and Ukeru Magosaki, the Japanese ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary in Uzbekistan, took part in the conversation.

Today, the Sumitomo Corporation delegation members also visited the Uzbek Cabinet of Ministers. During the conversation that took place there Deputy Prime Minister Sultanov expressed satisfaction, on the government's behalf, with the ties that are developing with the Japanese business world. He noted that further development of mutually advantageous ties would be in the interests of both sides. The guests expressed a number of interesting proposals concerning, for example, organizing training visits to Sumitomo enterprises for Uzbek specialists, expanding relations in the sphere of mineral extraction in Uzbekistan, setting up tourist exchanges, and getting some other leading Japanese companies involved in cooperation with our republic.

The representatives of the Sumitomo Corporation expressed their desire to take part in developing oil and gas deposits and setting up joint ventures in the area of tourism. Deputy Prime Minister Sultanov singled out Uzbekistan's processing industry, which is in need of modern technology, as one of the possible and most promising areas for cooperation. Other matters of mutual interest were touched on during the meeting.

The Sumitomo Corporation is continuing to look at life in our republic. For example, the guests today visited a number of corporations and committees. Ways toward further cooperation were outlined during the talks.

The group of Japanese industrial financiers led by the company's executive director Tadzuo Nishida, visited the Uzbek National Oil and Gas Corporation and met its leaders. Matters relating to supplying the Uzbek side with the technical equipment it needs to extract oil and gas were discussed during the talks. The Mingbulak oil deposit was also discussed. The delegation members expressed their readiness to prepare a complete draft of a project for an oil- refining enterprise, and to provide investments to help build it. This met with approval from the Uzbek side.

[Begin Nishida recording in Japanese with superimposed Russian translation; identified by caption] The main aim of our visit to Uzbekistan is to establish mutually advantageous ties and good-neighborly relations. We are ready to extend invitations to young Uzbek specialists and pass on our experience to them.

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We have great potential for strengthening Japanese-Uzbek relations, including cooperation in tourism. During our visit we hope to visit the ancient and historic cities of Bukhara and Samarkand. [end recording]

Nomination of Parliamentary Candidates Concluded

LD1711224794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2142 GMT 17 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The nomination of candidates of the deputies of Uzbekistan's parliament has been concluded.

According to the Republic's Central Election Committee, there has been registered as many as 643 candidates in 250 electoral districts, among them 247 deputies from Uzbekistan's Popular Democratic Party, 146 candidates from the Vatan Tarakkieti party (Progress of Fatherland), and 250 candidates from the representative power bodies.

A total of 62 of 643 candidates are deputies of the present Supreme Soviet. Among them are 50 women, 438 members of Uzbekistan's Popular Democratic Party, 115 members of the Vatan Tarakkieti party, as many as 173 people are younger than 40 year old.

In the near few days lists of the candidates are to be published in the local press then they can start their election campaign.

The UN mission in Tashkent reported to INTERFAX that this organization would sent its representatives to the parliamentary elections in Uzbekistan at the request of the republic's government. The republic's leadership has also invited the American non-state organization International Fund for Elections to help Uzbekistan in elections in accordance with the international principles and norms.

The elections of the country's new parliament are scheduled for 25 December.

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Armenia

New Embassy Opened in Canada

954K0369A Yerevan RESPUBLIKA ARMENIYA in Russian 16 Nov 94 p 1

[SNARK report: "Our Man in...: Embassy Opened in Canada"]

[FBIS Translated Text] An Embassy of the Republic of Armenia has opened in the capital of Canada—Ottawa. It is headed by Garnik Nanagulyan with the rank of charge ad interim. The SNARK Agency was informed of this in the Armenian Independent Press Center.

Nanagulyan previously worked at the Embassy of Armenia in the United States. He was born on 25 January 1953. In 1975 he graduated from the Physics Faculty of Yerevan University, and in 1985, from the Diplomatic Academy in Moscow. He is married with a 17-year-old daughter.

New Trade Representative to Moscow Named

954K0369B Yerevan RESPUBLIKA ARMENIYA in Russian 16 Nov 94 p 1

[NOYAN TAPAN report: "New Commercial Representative in Moscow?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] It has been learned from sources close to the government that Arkadiy Avanesov, an economist by specialty who previously worked in the Trade and Economic Chamber of Armenia, has been appointed Armenia's new trade representative in Moscow, NOYAN TAPAN announces.

Government Asks Parliament for Reforms Program Credit

NC1711141394 Yerevan SNARK in English 0940 GMT 17 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Yerevan, November 17 (SNARK)—Today the parliament of Armenia started discussing of government's appeal to grant a credit by the Central Bank, that will allow the Ministers' Cabinet to start the reforms program realization.

As prime minister of Armenia, Grant Bagratyan said at the special session of the parliament, extra emission for 3.2 billion drams, which makes nearly $8 million, is necessary for compensation of the population's expenses connected with 10 times increase of prices of bread since 1 December. The prime minister promised, on behalf of the government, to totally return credit of many billions in the first quarter of next year.

The debates are [item incomplete as received]

Government, Bank Statement on 'Entry Into Market'

MM1711141994 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 17 Nov 94 p 2

[Report by Sergey Bablumyan: "Armenia Enters the Market. This Time in Earnest"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Yerevan—The government and the Central Bank of Armenia have published a Statement on Economic Policy, announcing the Republic's resolute and irrevocable entry into the market economy. The day inaugurating the new way of life has also been set: 1 December will see the first step taken toward deregulating prices for bread, electricity, and muncipal services.

The program has been drawn up in close cooperation with the IMF and envisages serious transformations, particularly in the system of taxation and management structures and in budget, finance, and credit policy.

In line with Armenia's quota of $94 million, the Republic can count on receiving from the IMF a loan of 50 percent of its own contribution, that is to say, around $50 million. However, as IMF representative Robert Russell, who was in Yerevan, explained to journalists, if the reforms start off in the right direction and at a good pace, the size of the loans could be increased.

Meanwhile, in addition to the IMF aid, Armenia is also counting on receiving another $250 to $300 million in all in soft loans from other international financial organizations and donor countries in 1995.

Communists Oppose Government Economic Policy

NC1711175194 Yerevan SNARK in English 1509 GMT 17 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Yerevan, 17 November (SNARK)—As utmost political cynicism called the leader of Armenian communists Sergey Badalyan today's appearance in parliament of the Prime Minister Grant Bagratyan. [sentence as received]

In his interview to SNARK he stated that the economic policy forced by IMF upon Armenia may result in three to four-time fall of living standard. Badalyan called ungrounded Mr. Bagratyan's position that 10-fold bread price increase on 1 December would not cause price rise. "I have consulted with known economists who think that prices for the first-need consumer goods may grow six to eight times", said Badalyan.

Government To Invest Heavily in Social Programs

NC1711175794 Yerevan SNARK in English 1509 GMT 17 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Yerevan, 17 November (SNARK)—The government intends to invest large funds into the social sphere, the Armenian Prime Minister Grant Bagratyan told in his interview to SNARK correspondent.

He rejected the opposition blames of the government in that current policy for liberalization of prices and entire economic system has anti-social character.

Mr. Bagratyan also pointed out the importance of supporting the production sphere, noting that though the large credits to be granted by IMF are not designed for

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development of economy, the output will be supported on account of internal r [item incomplete as received]

Finance Minister Cautions on Promises of High Dividends

NC1711180194 Yerevan SNARK in English 1509 GMT 17 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Yerevan, 17 November (SNARK)—Armenian Finance Minister Levon Barkhudaryan advised the investors not to believe various commercial companies that promise high interest to population.

Over 30 companies run bankrupt in Armenia during last few months, while their investors alternatively "attack" the Central Bank and Financial Ministry buildings.

In his interview to SNARK the head finansist of Armenia pointed out that depositors' claims to Financial Ministry and other state structures are groundless. Ruined companies—that had earlier obtained registration certificates from Financial Ministry, for emission prospect and stock issue—carried out illegal transactions, he said.

The minister suggested investors to insure their deposits and observed that the state may be responsible only for those big banks whose stock-holder is the state itself.

Prime Minister Details Reform, Economic Growth Prospects

NC1711180494 Yerevan SNARK in English 1054 GMT 17 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Yerevan, November 17 (SNARK)—Armenian Prime Minister Grant Bagratyan stated today that a trend towards life level growth is expected in Armenia in 1995. Speaking in the parliament he said that after 1 December when tenfold price increase for bread is expected, other products will not be touched with price growth. According to him, price and dollar rate increase towards Armenian currency is possible in the first Half of December.

"By the middle of December the Central Bank will get the first amount from International Monetary Fund (IMF) and will guarantee stability of national currency,"—said Grant Bagratyan.

The premier reported, if Armenian parliament approve a new economical program, elaborated together with IMF, Armenia will get $180 million credit from International Currency Organiza [item incomplete as received]

Crowd Demonstrates at Central Bank

954K0369C Yerevan RESPUBLIKA ARMENIYA in Russian 16 Nov 94 p 1

[Report by Ashot Aramyan: "So That There Are No Bankruptcies! The Central Bank Was Blockaded Yesterday"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Central Bank recently adopted two decisions that were once again to have enhanced its rating among the public, which has been rocked. First, as of this month, the ratio between the equity capital and borrowed funds of banks and other financial and credit institutions will gradually, before next March, be reduced from 1:10 to 1:2; and the second, once again as of this month, 5 percent of banks' foreign currency borrowings will be held in reserve at the Central Bank of the Republic of Armenia in order that it may be channeled into satisfaction of the needs of depositors in the event of bankruptcy.

But this did nothing to raise the spirits of the desperate people who have already lost their money. On the contrary, as of yesterday morning an excited crowd of about 300 persons blocked both entrances to the Central Bank building, fixing their paper appeals on the respectable and stately Central Bank of the Republic of Armenia signboard. Activists of the defrauded investors' movement are calling for people to reassemble tomorrow morning at the Central Bank building, in a number of no fewer than 5,000, what is more, in order then to set off on a protest march to the residences of the prime minister, the head of parliament, and the president. "A fish rots from the head down," one leaflet says, "so let us flatten this head...."

...Two representatives of the police department, one with the rank of colonel, moreover, attempted to enter the Central Bank building, but following altercations, were not let through the main entrance. Here the men that had been standing at the closed steel doors began to hurriedly move back to the rear, shoving toward the doors themselves agitated and, incidentally, quite well-dressed women: "They'll do nothing to you," the men whispered here. Thus there was a certain amount of organization in the crowd's plan of action. The colonel was ultimately forced to move off, throwing out significantly here: "The respect you have shown me, I will show you." After which, he showed up at the rear entrance to the Central Bank, where the crowd was not as monolithic. Taking advantage of the discordant opinions, the police officers slipped through the narrow aperture of the iron gates, which had been drawn back, after which the latter were securely shut.

Contrary to the rumors concerning shots outside the Central Bank building and the taking of Bagrat Asatryan, chairman of the Central Bank, as a hostage, the latter was at this time in his office, and no one was about to do any shooting. People continued to demand that B. Asatryan come out to see them. The police, despite the threats, did not resort to decisive actions. This was the state of affairs at 1535 yesterday.

At the last minute: As announced in the press center of the Central Bank of the Republic of Armenia, at about 1700 B. Asatryan received representatives of the depositors. People had not yet dispersed by this time. For two days now the operation of the Central Bank has been paralyzed, there have been no transactions....

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Azerbaijan

Aliyev Comments on Moscow Talks Agenda

NC1711174894 Baku Azerbaycan Radio Televiziyasi Television Network in Azeri 1300 GMT 17 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Azerbaijani President Geydar Aliyev left for a brief working visit to Moscow today. This is how the head of the Azerbaijani state explained the purpose of his visit at Baku's Bina Airport:

[Begin recording] [Aliyev] This is my brief working visit to Russia. This is it. Russian President Boris Yeltsin and I had consultations, and we agreed that we should meet and talk. I held talks with Boris Yeltsin about this during the meeting of the heads of CIS states in Moscow on 21 October. We agreed at the time that we should specially meet at a suitable time to exchange views on Russian-Azerbaijan relations. Certainly, we will also hold talks on the Nagorno-Karabakh problem—that is, on Armenia's aggression against Armenia—on ending the war, and on signing the Major Political Agreement by taking advantage of the six-month-long cease-fire. As you know, we are holding such talks on various issues. But Russia is an active participant in these talks. Their mediation effort always exists here. Therefore, talks with Russia, and particularly with the Russian President Boris Yeltsin, on these issues are very important. This is the essence of my visit. That is, this is a brief working visit. This is how it could be described.

At the same time, this coincides with the marking of the 500th anniversary of our great poet Memet Fizuli in Moscow. These two are not linked but fall at the same time. Therefore, I will both hold talks with the Russian leaders and, if possible, will participate in the celebration of Fizuli's 500th anniversary. A large delegation from Azerbaijan has already gone there to mark the anniversary with celebrations. If I get the opportunity, I will also be present. This is the purpose of my visit.

Today is the national revival day in Azerbaijan [commemorating mass anti-Soviet rallies in Baku in 1988]. You know about this, a statement has already been issued in this direction. I have already congratulated the people on the occasion. It was broadcast on the television. Availing myself of this opportunity, I again congratulate the Azerbaijani people on this revival day. I believe that today is a symbolic day. May be that different strata of the population will hold different views on this day, on those events. Undoubtedly, one cannot give an unequivocal assessment to this. History will pass its judgment on everything. But, what is the meaning of today? This should be assessed realistically and objectively. Its meaning rests in the fact that on that day the people's deep-rooted and long-standing feelings feeding the national independence spirit came into the open as a reaction to the unjust position of the then Soviet leaders and government adopted against the Azerbaijani people's national liberation feelings in connection with the Nagorno-Karabakh problem, and as a reaction against the failure of the then Azerbaijani Communist leadership and regime to guide these national liberation feelings and aspirations of the Azerbaijani people under the then existing tense sociopolitical conditions.

Therefore, this was the day when a deep-running process achieved victory, overflowed into the open. Therefore, we have to value this day. That is, that day and following processes showed that the Azerbaijani people could demonstrate its own national identity. It could, henceforth, express its national liberation spirit not secretly but openly. In that sense it played an important role. In general, it led to the changes in the sociopolitical life in Azerbaijan, and those changes were part of the objective sociopolitical changes taking part in the Soviet Union and in the world. This was not a local process, but a part of an international one. The open expression of these emotions, feelings, and national liberation aspirations of our people, and the immediate embracement of these feelings by the people showed that these feelings existed in the heart of most and they only needed a spark to come into the open. Therefore, this event should be properly assessed. I myself am doing that. And, I again congratulate our people and nation on this occasion, and I hope that this feeling of national liberation and independence will never be drowned again.

[Unidentified correspondent] What about difficulties in economic the sphere?

[Aliyev] It is difficult to say. We are trying to make use of some of the means of Russia on the basis of mutual ties. For example, there is now a grain shortage. We have appealed to various sources, but so far we have not obtained the needed help even from sources friendly to us. These and other matters will also be discussed. Many other issues could be discussed there. But, I cannot say anything now, let us discuss this after the talks. [end recording]

The Azerbaijani president was seen off at Baku's Bina Airport by Chairman of the Supreme Soviet Rasul Guliyev, Acting Prime Minister Fuad Guliyev, state advisers, prime minister's advisers, ministers, heads of committees and enterprises, and other officials.

Aliyev Calls CE Entry Process 'Excessively Protracted'

LD1711120194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1105 GMT 17 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Azerbaijan's President Geydar Aliyev has described as "excessively protracted" the process of Baku's entry in the Council of Europe [CE].

"The young Azerbaijani state may get too old before it joins the CE," he remarked in a conversation in Baku Wednesday with David Atkinson, chairman of the CE Parliamentary Assembly's Committee for New Independent States.

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Because of the impending winter, which, as the president noted, will aggravate the problem of refugees in Karabakh, Aliyev requested concrete CE aid to Azerbaijan.

Atkinson agreed that UN and CE should take an active part in solving the refugee and other problems facing the Caucasian region. He pledged to submit a report on the refugee issue to CE next March.

Atkinson hailed Azerbaijan's latest proposals on Karabakh as a major confidence building measure, according to which, Azerbaijan can agree to the Armenian troops presence in Karabakh, pending its status definition.

The CE official accepted Azerbaijan's stance, by which Russian troops should not exceed 30 percent of a peacekeeping force in the zone of conflict, and the Lachin corridor, linking Karabakh with Armenia, should function under international supervision. Atkinson said he would ask Armenia and Karabakh to study these proposals.

On Azerbaijan's chances to join the Council of Europe, he reported that at its next session CE will consider the issue on granting a special guest status to Azerbaijan to pave the way for Azerbaijan's full-fledged membership in the Council of Europe.

Georgia

Shevardnadze Comments on Russian-Georgian Friendship

LD1711190494

[FBIS Editorial Report] Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian at 1300 GMT on 17 November broadcast a three-minute report on the arrival in Tbilisi on a week-long visit of Princess Leonida Bagrationi-Romanova, mother of the official heir to the Russian throne. The report says that this is the first visit to Georgia by the princess, who is Georgian by origin.

Leonida Bagrationi-Romanova had a meeting with Georgian Head of State Eduard Shevardnadze. Shevardnadze thanked the princess for the earnest desire to make a contribution to the restoration and development of the "traditional friendship and cooperation between Russia and Georgia." Shevardnadze said that "Georgia's turning toward Russia and establishing mutually beneficial contacts is the most correct decision made. Many countries of the world have a friendly and benevolent attitude toward Georgia, but cooperation with Russia is a historic necessity suggested not only by humane and respectable relations developed through centuries, but also by mutual pragmatic reasons."

Shevardnadze on Abkhazian Settlement

MK1711115094 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 17 Nov 94 pp 1, 3

[Interview with Eduard Shevardnadze, Georgian State Council chairman, by Nodar Broladze under the "Leader" rubric: "Everything Is Possible if Good Will Exists. Eduard Shevardnadze Still Believes in Solution to Abkhazian-Georgian Problems"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Broladze] UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali's Tbilisi visit ushered in a new stage of hope and expectations in the process of settling the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict. You counted, not without reason, on the settlement formula "the United Nations plus the CIS..."

[Shevardnadze] Not so long ago I used the word "pessimism" for the first time, although I believed very much in the experiment's success at the initial stage. Let me explain, I was disappointed not so much by the scheme or the settlement plan, but rather by its results. I do not think that these results have been determined by the tactics that were adopted, or by wrong calculations. I would resort to an unusual comparison: However optimal the tactic suggested by the team's coaches might be, in the end everything depends on the level of its execution and, in this particular case, on one's readiness to fulfill undertaken obligations. The United Nations, the secretary general said, is involved in resolving the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict, proceeding from the unshakeable principles of the Republic of Georgia's territorial integrity, the inviolability of its international borders, and so forth. Our conversations with Butrus-Ghali were meant to reach an agreement on the need firmly to adhere to these principles. I hope that the plan, to which some adjustments have been made with the view to stepping up efforts, will be implemented. Most important, this should be done within acceptable time limits.

[Broladze] What should be done to achieve that?

[Shevardnadze] First of all, political, moral, and technical conditions must be created so that the return of refugees will become a reality. By the way, one cannot but take into account the psychology of displaced persons, the very psychological background against which the repatriation is taking place. When only five families are being invited to cross the bridge, the feeling of despondency is bound to emerge. Not 100, not 1,000, but at least 10,000 people a month ought to return. Then this will be a real process. Its results should elicit the feeling of reassurance and security among both the refugees and those who are responsible for their lives. It seems to me that the Abkhazian side clearly overestimates the danger of bringing back the displaced persons, as it claims that thus hit-men could penetrate Gali and other regions. This will be ruled out if both sides are consistent and precise in fulfilling the obligations they have undertaken. In the next two months the settlement process, I hope, will be gaining momentum. In order to accelerate this movement, Mr. Butrus-Ghali plans, as has already become known, to arrange a meeting of the Russian and Georgian leaders, and also Abkhazian leader Vladislav Ardzinba. I hope that the results of this meeting will largely mold the peace process.

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[Broladze] The Kodor gorge has long remained a stumbling block. Inspection results are well known. What next?

[Shevardnadze] The peacekeeping forces have seen for themselves that the Georgian side continues to honor its obligations, as, by the way, it did before. The gorge will from now on be controlled by peacekeeping forces alone, not the Abkhazian police or administration. But even though the Abkhazian side also saw for itself that there are no government forces there, the process of repatriating refugees could not be accelerated despite statements made earlier in Sukhumi.

[Broladze] The Abkhazian side continues to link the return of refugees to the definition of its political status in hopes of underpinning Abkhazia's statehood and creating a system of political rule regardless of the will of those who lived there before the war. Moreover, they clearly wish to obtain guarantees of their long-term political future by resorting to diktat so as to minimize their dependence on Georgia's central authorities or to get rid of it altogether. How will this problem be resolved?

[Shevardnadze] There is not a single country guided by universally acknowledged international tenets where central authorities would encroach on the rights of the regions, autonomous or federal entities that have the broadest possible independence in making decisions on some questions or other. But at the same time, the issue is a single state within whose boundaries all conditions, rights, and freedoms that exist in international practice and are provided for in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights ought to be ensured. A single state. A single system of defense, finances, and foreign policy. It will not be difficult to agree on delimiting other powers. Abkhazia is an inalienable part of Georgia, and no one will be able to prove to me that this region's well-being cannot be achieved within Georgia. On the contrary, the well-being will remain in doubt until Abkhazia and its current leadership feel or see that the course toward tearing it apart from Georgia is doomed. Maybe not today, not tomorrow, but the day after tomorrow, in five or eight years justice will prevail. I want to say that on a historical scale this problem is bound to be resolved. And I believe that this will be done precisely by the current generation. [passage omitted]

[Broladze] In one of his latest interviews, which was published in PRAVDA under the headline "Abkhazia Has Never Seceded From Russia," Vladislav Ardzinba reaffirmed his intransigent stance as he said: "On 4 April, in Moscow, Georgia, Abkhazia, Russia, and the United Nations—in the presence of Butrus Butrus-Ghali—signed an agreement stating that Abkhazia is not just a region, but a state with all the trappings and powers of a subject of international law. That is, Abkhazia and Georgia were recognized as two equal subjects." [Passage omitted] How can this be interpreted and how durable a peace can be established in Abkhazia if Ardzinba's stance is clearly at odds not only with that of the Georgian leadership, but also with the Russian leadership's view and provisions of the Security Council resolution on the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict settlement? Or can a compromise be reached that would suit both sides and, hence, the other participants in the settlement effort?

[Shevardnadze] Everything is possible if good will exists. As for the quotation you have just cited, I will have to make a number of important clarifications.

First: The document referred to in the interview is not an agreement, it is a statement. Namely, "The Statement on Measures on a Political Settlement of the Georgian-Abkhazian Conflict."

Second: It was signed not by Georgia and Abkhazia, but by parties to the conflict together with the United Nations, the Russian Federation, and the CSCE.

Third: Abkhazia and Georgia were not recognized as two equal subjects in the document, because Paragraph 2 of the statement mentioned above says: "Talks were held in accordance with Security Council Resolutions No. 849 of 9 July 1993; No. 854 of 6 August 1993; No. 858 of 24 August 1993; No. 876 of 19 October 1993; No. 881 of 4 November 1993; No. 892 of 22 December 1993; No. 896 of 31 January 1994; No. 901 of 4 March 1994; and No. 906 of 25 March 1994." Meanwhile, most of these resolutions especially emphasize Georgia's territorial integrity and the inviolability of its borders as recognized by the international community.

As for the trappings, Abkhazia should have an anthem, an emblem, and a flag, but the above statement does not recognize it as a subject of international law. Nor is there a single word about a confederation between Georgia and Abkhazia. Moreover, there is no reference whatsoever to Abkhazia's future status.

Fourth. The agreement that was signed on the same day, 4 April, was the Quadripartite Agreement on the Voluntary Return of Refugees and Displaced Persons.

So, as we see that the Abkhazian side's attitude to the problem of the return of Georgian refugees centers on their wish to have a concrete idea of their future, Abkhazia's political fate, and the prospects for their existence on a territory that the Georgian side sees now and will continue to see in the future not as an independent state, but as a sufficiently independent entity within Georgia—I have repeatedly stated that this will not be just any province, but one that will have its own, special rights. I repeat, we are ready to grant Abkhazia the broadest possible rights that exist in international practice. Is this not enough? I see precisely this as a realistic foundation for reaching a compromise. But the formula calling for "two independent states," on which the Abkhazian authorities are trying to insist, is impossible.

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'Nothing Good' Expected From Talks on Abkhazia

LD1711142894 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1300 GMT 17 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Commenting on the latest round of the Geneva talks on the Abkhazian conflict, Jaba Ioseliani, the head of the Georgian delegation, said that only a miracle could lead the talks out of deadlock. The discussion concerning the future status of Abkhazia is in a deadlock. It is well known that the Georgian party considers the issue from the point of view of Georgia's territorial integrity while the Abkhazian party insists on the relations based on a treaty between two independent subjects. Ioseliani reckons that nothing good can be expected from the Geneva talks. In his words, most of the experts are skeptical when assessing the talks.

Geneva Talks Show Georgian-Abkhaz Positions 'Far Apart'

LD1711212594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2110 GMT 17 Nov 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Konstantin Pribytkov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Geneva 17 Nov (TASS)—The third day of the Georgian-Abkhazian talks in Geneva has shown that the sides' positions remain far apart. Main controversy revolves over what Abkhazia's status would be—an autonomy within Georgia, part of a confederation or an independent Republic. The latter option is unacceptable for Georgia since it would violate its territorial integrity and its internationally recognised borders.

This impasse hinders solutions to the refugee problem: only 300 are now monthly returning to Abkhazia under a formal procedure. Proposals from U.N. and Russian intermediaries to increase the number to 3,000 have not been overlooked by Abkhazia so far.

Some progress has been made, however. ITAR-TASS was told by diplomatic sources that the Abkhazian delegation to the talks agreed to "legalise" about 25,000 refugees who had returned to Abkhazia before October, when a campaign of volunteer organised repatriation officially started.

"They are playing for time, trying to mislead the international community," Jaba Ioseliani, the Georgian delegation's leader, said about the Abkhazians in an interview with ITAR-TASS.

International mediator, Swiss diplomat Edouard Brunner said in an interview with Swiss Telegraph Agency that the Abkhazians were not as yet prepared to consent to entering federative Georgia, and this explained the sluggish talks. Brunner said Russia was not impartial, stressing that the Russians believe nothing must happen without them, much less be directed against them in Caucasus.

However, chief of the U.N. mission for Georgia, Danish General John Hvidegaard said told ITAR-TASS that he thought highly of CIS peacekeepers' cooperation with the mission in the conflict area, adding that contacts with the peacekeepers' command were permanent.

The difficult progress of the talks makes doubtful the U.N.—and Russia—brokered meeting of Eduard Shevardnadze and Vladislav Ardzinba. Their dialogue was proposed by U.N. Secretary General Butrus-Ghali during his recent visit to Georgia. The secretary general related the prospect of the meeting with the success of the current talks.

Tbilisi Residents Demonstrate Against Lack of Bread

LD1711205794 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1300 GMT 17 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Bread baking has been reduced in Tbilisi by 110 tonnes per day. This means that about 400,000 people will not be able to get their due ration of bread every day. Although it has been made possible to continue baking by adapting the ovens to work on diesel fuel, efficiency has decreased considerably. The bread baking factories still need electricity for certain technological processes.

Tbilisi Mayor Niko Lekishvili demanded that the Purproduktebi [Bread Products] concern distribute three kilos of flour per person during the next two months. Apart from that, the mayor demands that bread not be supplied to any organization except military units.

BGI news agency reports that the inhabitants of Dighomi [residential district in Tbilisi] blocked Megobroba Street. Their demand was: Either give us bread, or let Shevardnadze quit. The residents of the district, indignant at a two-day delay in receiving their ration of bread, have built barricades and beaten up managers of two bread shops. Some threaten to stage a hunger strike in case bread is not supplied in the shops.

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Estonia

Swedish, Finnish EU Votes Said Paving Way for Tallinn

LD1711202694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1724 GMT 17 Nov 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature: compiled by Nikolay Zherebtsov, Andrey Petrovskiy; edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Estonian Prime Minister Andres Tarand believes that the results of the opinion polls on membership in the European Union [EU] held in Sweden and Finland "have paved Estonia's road to Europe."

At a press conference in Tallinn he underlined that though Estonia only starts discussing the issue on the benefits of integration with the European Union "one should not forget that the issue on unification with the European Union is primarily the issue on revival, we can speak about possible negative factors and about ways to avoid them only after that." Tarand assessed the session of the Baltic Assembly which was held simultaneously with the referendum in Sweden as "Latvia's, Lithuania's and Estonia's joint effort to mobilize on the way to Europe."

Tarand reported that a working group on preparation of Estonia's cooperation with the European Union has been formed in the government. However, it is not expedient to create a special ministry "now we are developing a structure of our association with this organization, one can speak about creation of a ministry not earlier than in two years," Tarand believes.

He expressed concern over the fact that statements of several Estonian politicians voiced in Sweden and Lithuania create "a negative impression on the situation in Estonia." As an example, he mentioned a statement of one of the top-ranking state employees who called Estonia "a banana republic." "Our ministers should not prevent such employees from looking for a job and place of residence taking into consideration the fruits they like," Tarand declared.

Change in Registration Deadline Recommended

LD1711173394 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1600 GMT 17 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The Interior Ministry will today recommend to the government that the deadline for the reregistration of those parties which had already registered prior to July of this year be reinstated. This is what Interior Minister Kaido Kama has told the Baltic News Service. According to Kama, the Interior Ministry recommends that the reregistration deadline should be set to mid-January 1995. The minister explained that after the law on parties came into force in July it was left open how as to how parties which had already been registered should be reregistered. Requirements for the reregistration must be specified precisely so that they would be able to put their constitutions in order and register before parliamentary elections in March.

Under the law, all parties wishing to take part in the elections must be registered by 12 December. Kama said the parties registered before June will also be able to nominate their candidates for the elections. However, if they fail to reregister by mid-January they will not be able to enter the elections under their own names.

Latvia

Finnish Minister Supports Latvian Integration in Europe

LD1711202894 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1800 GMT 17 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Finnish Foreign Minister Heikki Haavisto visited Latvia today. At a press conference held jointly with Latvian Foreign Minister Valdis Birkavs today, it was emphasized that Latvia and Finland are collaborating closely to realize Latvia's wish to enter the European Union.

Cooperation in other spheres was also (?extended). Finland has assigned a million Finnish Markka [FM] to strengthen security against radioactivity in Latvia, 300,000 FM to improve the ecological situation at Skrunda, and 600,000 FM to create a medical center for the Baltic peace-keeping battalion.

This is how Latvian-Finnish relations were assessed by Latvian Foreign Minister Valdis Birkavs:

[Begin Birkavs recording] We are very interested in learning about Finland's relations with Russia. Finland has 50 years' longer experience of bilateral relations with Russia. We are cooperating well with Finland, and Finland has always given us much support at international forum. I won't name them all now, there are very many of them, but we have been discussing thoroughly the development of our relations in connection with NATO, in connection with the European Union, and in connection with the Western European Union.

In regional relations, I am personally very interested in the future development of the Nordic Council in (?view of) Sweden's and Finland's—and possibly Norway's—entry into the European Union. In this context, I see as extremely significant the links between Baltic cooperation, Nordic cooperation, and the European Union. [end recording]

[Announcer] The foreign minister of the Republic of Finland also visited Latvian State President Guntis Ulmanis and Prime Minister Maris Gailis. The Latvian prime minister received an official invitation to visit Finland. In informal talks with Ulmanis, the Finnish foreign minister once more emphasized that Finland has always supported Latvia's integration into Europe.

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Haavisto also expressed the belief that Finnish-Latvian economic relations are developing well, as well as cultural links [words indistinct].

Human Rights Minister Denies Rights To Non-Latvians

LD1711193494 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1248 GMT 17 Nov 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Kuchina]

[FBIS Translated Text] Riga, 17 Nov—Janis Tupesis, Latvia's human rights minister, who has held that post for two months agrees with the definition "civilian occupationists." He said that almost the whole world has recognized that there was an occupation, "even Russia—only not officially." This does not mean, he said in the newspaper SM-SEGODNYA, which today published an interview with the 57-year-old minister, "that all civilian occupationists should be automaticaly expelled." In his view, this fate should befall those "who are hostile to the freedom and statehood of Latvia and its language, and who consider that Latvia will eventually become part of another country."

The minister described as "utterly absurd" the proposal to give citizenship to everyone over 65. In his opinion only citizens make up the people of Latvia, "the rest are not citizens." As is known, "the rest" comprise one-third of the inhabitants; they came here after 17 June 1940 when, as Latvian politicians stress, the country was occupied by Soviet forces.

Janis Tupesis is a doctor of mathematics; he has spent the major part of his life in the United States and has dual citizenship. "Latvia is my mother and America is my father," the minister said to readers of the Russian newspaper, the majority of whom have no citizenship at all.

Saeima Approves Budget Amendments

LD1711224294 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 2200 GMT 17 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Today, the Saeima approved amendments to the State budget for 1994, maintaining the maximum permissible state budget deficit at 40 million lats. The amendments to the budget specify payments in connection with the definition of the minimum wage at 28 lats, pension indexation, expenditure on the creation of the Baltic battalion, and payments for the increased wages of pedagogical workers. Residents' income tax deductions for the state's local budget compensation fund are being reduced.

The Saeima also rejected a draft resolution on a vote of no confidence in Druvis Skulte, minister of state for privatization, nor did it approve a special resolution in the long debate on the reply by Normunds Zemvaldis, minister of state for health, to the question from a deputy on the financing of the Pauls Stradins Hospital next year.

Lithuania

Seimas Ratifies Cooperation Accord With Romania

WS1811114094 Vilnius ELTA in English 1902 GMT 17 Nov 94

[From "News Bulletin" No. 632]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Vilnius, November 17, ELTA—On 17 November Lithuanian Seimas [parliament] ratified Lithuanian-Romanian agreement on friendship and cooperation, that was signed by Lithuanian President Algirdas Brazauskas and Romanian President Ion Iliescu in Vilnius in March of 1994.

It was noted in the agreement that the two states confirmed inadmissibility of using force or making threats of using force while developing international relations. The agreement stressed the necessity of finding peaceful solutions to all international problems and showing respect to the nations' right of self-determination.

Lithuania and Romania spoke against the deployment of their military forces in each other's territories and pledged to support the improvement of collective security measures foreseen in the UN statutes.

The agreement foresaw Lithuanian-Romanian cooperation in the process of Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe. The agreement also foresaw the cooperation development in the spheres of economy, production, finance, technology and science, and closer cooperation in culture, education and other spheres. The agreement is valid for the period of twenty years.

The validity of the agreement will be automatically extended for the period of five years every time till one of the two countries informes about its decision to cancel the agreement. The information concerning the country's decision to cancel the agreement should be provided to its partner at least a year in advance of the date of expiration of the agreement.

Moscow: Military Transit Deal Talks 'Meaningless'

LD1811105394 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1000 GMT 18 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] A meeting of Lithuanian and Russian experts on the military transit agreement was held yesterday in Moscow. According to Aleksandr Udaltsov, deputy director of the second European department of the Russian Foreign Ministry, the meeting was virtually meaningless. Udaltsov deals with

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relations with the Baltic states. He claimed that the delegation of Lithuanian experts would not agree to discuss an agreement on military transit, and instead proposed to the Russian side to examine internal rules concerning military transit. When the Russian delegation refused to examine these rules, the meeting ended.

Udaltsov said that the internal transit rules are Lithuania's affair. He mentioned that the Russian Foreign Ministry is considering its stance and actions with regard to further negotiations with Lithuania on military transit, but refused to name any concrete proposals or steps.

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